

# The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN EDITION  
INCLUDING DUMBO

AWP/14 pages • Vol. 30, No. 10 • Saturday, March 10, 2007 • FREE

## Marty's spending points to City Hall

By Dana Rubinstein  
The Brooklyn Paper

Borough President Markowitz was pressed and pressed on last Tuesday night's edition of "Inside City Hall," but he just wouldn't say whether he was running for mayor.

But the Beep's campaign finance disclosure forms indicate that Markowitz is already doing plenty of running — \$200,000 worth of it, to be precise. That's how much money the still-undeclared Markowitz campaign spent on campaign-related expenses last year, putting him behind only Comptroller Bill Thompson and Bronx Borough President See **MARTY'S SPENDING** on page 11



Marty Markowitz on NY1 last week.

# WONG WAY

## SLOPERS: AVENUE PLAN STINKS

### City vows to kill one-ways if locals object

By Christie Rizk  
The Brooklyn Paper

City officials backtracked a bit this week from a bombshell proposal to convert Seventh and Sixth avenues into one-way thoroughfares, saying the much-reviled proposal would be killed if residents reject it at a meeting next week.

"These plans need community board approval and if the community doesn't support [it], we will not move forward," the agency said in a statement this week.

That promise suited Park Slope — both the man and woman on the street and the men and women they elected.

"I don't want to say anything official until I hear all the details, but [converting the avenues] sounds like a really dumb idea," said Assemblywoman Joan Millman (D-Cobble Hill).

Park Slope had virtually unified around defying this idea — a first step towards tackling the game-night gridlock expected after Bruce Ratner's Nets arena. The company now says the arena will open in 2010 (see story, page 13).

"People who aren't normally activist types are calling us to ask what they can do to prevent this," said Lydia Denworth, president of the Park Slope Civic Council, who directed residents to Thursday night's meeting (see box, right). "There's been an intensely negative reaction from the residents."

Most people have been complaining about the prospect of more speeding cars. If this proposal is implemented, Sixth Avenue could become very much like Eighth Avenue — where cars treat the one-way road like a highway, swerving around double-parked cars, not having to worry about oncoming traffic.

Both streets currently carry the standard city speed limit of 30 miles per hour. But such a rate of speed — and higher — is easily obtainable on Eighth Avenue, where drivers have the benefit of open road and a steady procession of timed green lights.

On Sixth Avenue, not only are the

lights timed to a much more leisurely pace, but hitting 30 miles per hour is virtually impossible because the lanes are tighter and other drivers are frequently doing U-turns.

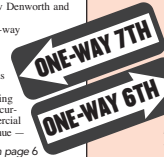
"And that's just how Denworth and others like it."

"In our view, two-way streets are more conducive to a better quality of life for residents and merchants as well," she said.

DOT says that turning Seventh Avenue — currently a busy commercial strip — and Sixth Avenue —

## HEARING IS SET FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 15

Community Board 6's transportation committee will be briefed on the city's plan to turn Sixth and Seventh avenues in Park Slope into one-way streets. The public will also get to weigh in. The March 15 meeting will take place at 6:30 pm at New York Methodist Hospital (506 Sixth St., between Seventh and Eighth avenues). For information, call (718) 643-3027.



See **ONE-WAYS** on page 6

## For cats' sake

### 'Ladies' saving Ratner's kitties

By Dana Rubinstein  
The Brooklyn Paper

While opponents of Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project continue to work around the clock — figuratively — to block the developer's wrecking ball, cat lovers are working around the clock — literally — to rescue a colony of feral felines who are about to lose their home to make room for the 16-tower megaproject.

A group from Slope Street Cats, which traps, neuters, and cares for feral kitties, has been spending its nights setting up traps outside a trash-filled lot on Vanderbilt Avenue and Dean Street, where 11 stray cats don't know that the largest development in Brooklyn's history is about to exist there.

"Cats are very tied to place," said Laura Brahm, the group's assistant executive director. "If [Ratner] starts doing demolition, the cats will either run away and

starve, or get hit by cars."

The challenges are many. For one thing, Brahm inquired at the developer's much-heralded "community liaison office" last week to find out when various buildings are set to be torn down, but she hasn't gotten an answer.

In addition, these cats — who have all been given names of presidents or first ladies — have already been trapped for spaying or neutering, and are extremely wary of being caught again (can you blame them?).

On Tuesday evening, Brahm pulled up in her friend's battered red Toyota Corolla, pulled out four traps, unspooled tins of sardines, and placed them inside the traps.

Then she got back in her car and waited. On average, it takes Brahm an hour or

two to re-trap a feral cat. That night was no exception.

After about 20 minutes, a cow-print cat with a black tail named John F. Kennedy started nosing around and was eventually caught with a net.

The 35th president will join Zachary Taylor, Warren Harding and Eleanor Roosevelt — three fellow ferals — in a pimpled-out shed in a volunteer's backyard, where they will dine on fancy food to help endear them to the new location.

Meanwhile, Brahm and her colleagues will be hard at work in the Atlantic Yards footprint, snatching Ratner's kitties (a Ratner spokesman refused to comment, by the way).

"I'll keep coming back every night until we get them all," said Brahm. Four down. Seven to go.



Laura Brahm of Slope Street Cats sets up a cat trap to round up and relocate feral cats living in an empty lot within Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards footprint.

## (Law) breaking news: Columnist is collared

### Sentenced to write this story



Paper columnist Matthew Lysiak with coffee at scene of the crime.

By Matthew Lysiak  
The Brooklyn Paper

I admit it. I'm guilty as charged. And let me tell all you kids out there: littering is bad. You can take it from me.

My cautionary tale begins with the careless placement of one coffee cup on a garbage-littered shelf at the 7th Street Station. What followed were handcuffs and a ride in the back of a police van to Traffic Division 34 headquarters in Coney Island.

"This is really something," said the guy behind the Plexiglas, whose job it was to verify my identity. "They never used to bring people in for these kinds of things. But this is what happens when crime goes down and the number of officers on the streets goes up."

"The guy I just spoke with before you is in here because he missed the trash can," Plexiglas-man added.

"Well, I didn't exactly miss the trash can," said Lat-tek White of Red Hook, who became my cellmate moments later.

"The can was overflowing and I threw my trash in it, but it bounced out and rolled on the ground."

See **GUILTY!** on page 11

## Crass menagerie

Our man gets caught in the middle of a Williams's drama

By Chris Varnus  
The Brooklyn Paper

In most cases, when a theater group decides to stage an American classic, it sticks to the script and tries to perform the piece as it was intended.

This is not one of those cases.

Grotesque and outrageous, "Bouffon Glass Menagerie," the latest incarnation of Tennessee Williams's 1944 classic, obliterates any semblance of whatever decency or moral restraint the play once had.

"Why would anyone do this to an American masterpiece?" you might ask yourself. I decided that in order to find out, I needed to go put myself in the line of fire, as it were, and join the cast.

"They've taken 'The Glass Menagerie,' arguably the most delicate and lyrical play in the American canon, and stuck a firecracker up its ass," said Michael Gardner, artistic director of the Brick Theater in Williamsburg. "It's wonderfully bawdy, tasteless, hammy and ugly — everything that Williams is not."

See **GLASS** on page 9



Ten-nasty Williams: Aimee German, Audrey Crabtree and Lynn Berg really yuck it up in "Bouffon Glass Menagerie," playing at the Brick Theater through March 24.

## Crime drops with mercury

By Lilo H. Stainton  
The Brooklyn Paper

Here's at least one reason to love the cold weather: criminals aren't showing up for work.

Police data shows a dramatic decrease in violent crimes during this cold snap. Rapes, robberies and other brutal acts were down nearly 28 percent in the 84th Precinct, which covers Downtown Brooklyn, Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO, during that time, and the figures fell by just under 18 percent in Park Slope's 78th Precinct.

In Bay Ridge's 68th Precinct, crime fell by more than 31 percent in the past month and was nearly cut in half over the last seven days.

"The rain, the sleet and the snow are a policeman's best friend," said Police Officer Ronnie Fagan, a two-decade veteran with the 84th Precinct. "The connection is unequivocal."

Of course, the brass doesn't like to credit the weather for the fine work of its officers.

"I see the cops are working harder and smarter than they ever have — and they're deployed at the right place and time," said Capt. Michael Kemper, commanding officer of the 76th Precinct of Carroll Gardens and Red Hook, where crime dropped more than 21 percent between Feb. 26 and March 3, and is down nearly 24 percent this year.

"We're taking a more proactive approach," added Capt. Eric Rodriguez, the CO at the 68th Precinct. Still, many Brooklynites are praying for cold.

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### SATURDAY March 10



#### She bo

The Jazz celebrates Women's history month with "Lady Got Chops." Tonight, Nicki Mathis's band, Afrikan Amerikan Jazz, featuring flute, vocals, bass and drums, is performing. The chops, we can assure you, are musical, not lamb.

9 pm at The Jazz (375 Kosciuszko St. at Marcus Garvey Boulevard in Bedford-Stuyvesant) \$10. For information call (718) 453-7825.

### SUNDAY March 11

#### Something fishy

The Aquarium hosts storyteller LuAnn Adams at "Sea Story Sundays." Sandwiched between Ayvee the walrus and the otters, Adams tells tales from around the world to visiting families and each Sunday they're clapping like seals.

12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 pm at the New York Aquarium (602 Surf Ave. at West Fifth Street in Coney Island). Free with admission. For information call (718) 265-3474.

### MONDAY March 12



#### A hot time

Warm away your winter blues with Chicha Libre's Monday night residency at Barbes. The mash up of surf rock, pop and Latin rhythm, along with a molto or two, should help you get over the South American vacation you never took.

10 pm at Barbes (376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope). \$10 donation encouraged. For information call (718) 965-9177.

### THURSDAY March 15

#### Park Slope street fight

And you thought Atlantic Yards was controversial! City transportation officials will come to Park Slope and explain why removing Sixth and Seventh avenues into one-way roads is a good idea. The meeting is such a hot ticket that the community board had to find a bigger room, a true rarity.

6:30 pm at New York Methodist Hospital Auditorium (506 Sixth St. at Seventh Avenue). Free. For information call (718) 643-3027.

### FRIDAY March 16



#### Stamped out

Greenpoint Jonathan Herder celebrates his new exhibition at Pierogi gallery tonight. Drop in for a drink and check out his collages, made up entirely of postage stamps, detail above.

7 pm at Pierogi (177 N. Ninth Street at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg). Free. For information call (718) 599-2144.

# THREE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

### SAT, MARCH 10

#### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**MORNING BRIDING:** Salt Marsh Nature Center hosts a walk around its Nature Trail. Learn about birds of the salt marsh and see some winter migrants. 8 am, 3:00 Ave. Call 311 for info. Free.

**ICE SKATING:** Last weekend for skating at Wolman Rink. \$5, \$3 seniors and children. \$5.50 skate rental. 10 am to 1 pm; 2 pm to 6 pm. 7 pm to 10 pm. Prospect Park, across through the Parkside/Ocean avenues entrance or the Lincoln Road/Ocean Avenue entrance. (718) 287-5252.

**DINING TOUR:** The NY Transit Museum hosts The L to the Mmm Train: Hipster Food, Pub, 'York and Wurst,' a gastronomic tour using the subway. \$45, \$40 for members. 11 am. (718) 694-1867.

**TALES FROM THE CRYPT:** The Urban Park Rangers host a tour of the thousands of revolutionary year prisons entombed in Fort Greene Park. 1 pm. Meet at Fort Greene Visitor Center, near the Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park entrance. Call 311 for info. Free.

**OWS HEAD PARK:** Join the Urban Park Rangers on a walking tour and learn park's history. 1 pm. Meet at Park House, Colonial Road and 48th Street. Call 311 for info. Free.

**WALKING TOUR:** Brooklyn Historical Society hosts a tour around Brooklyn Heights. Led by historian Francis Morrone. \$10, free for members. 2 pm to 4 pm. 128 Pierpont St. (718) 222-4111.

#### PERFORMANCE

**VAUDEVILLE FOR FAMILIES:** Variety show at Neighborhood Playhouse. \$5, 3 pm. Christ Church, Clinton and Kane streets. Sorry, no contact phone number.

**OPERA:** Regina Opera performs Puccini's "La Bohème." \$20, \$15 seniors, \$5 teens. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-0083.

**BAM:** The Brooklyn Academy of Music presents The Brooklyn Philharmonic in "Bridge to the Beyond," a concert of mysticism and spiritual themes. \$20 to \$60. 8 pm. Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. Also, 651 Arts presents "Fagalla," with Jant-Bi



**Peace chorus:** On Mar. 10, South African chorus Ladysmith Black Mambazo bring their award-winning sounds to the Whitman Theater at Brooklyn College.

Company, choreographed by Senegalese Gaminé Acyony. \$20 to \$55. 8 pm. Whitman Theater at Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** presents "Violent," a musical set during the civil rights movement. \$15, \$14 children and seniors. 8 pm. 199 14th St. (718) 332-3101.

**WOMEN'S FEST:** Brooklyn Arts Exchange presents its annual women's new dance and performance festival. \$15, \$10 members, \$5 low-income. 8 pm. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 632-0018.

**SHAKESPEARE:** Kings County Shakespeare Co. presents "Rufus or What You Will," a gender-friendly adaptation of "The Taming of the Shrew." \$18, \$10 students and seniors. 8 pm. South Oxford Square, 138 S. Oxford St. (718) 398-0546. (407) Fourth Ave. to 630 Ave. (718) 338-3800.

**BOC:** Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents Grammy award-winning

**TRANSIT MUSEUM:** Kids are invited to take part in "Panoramic Ceramics." Learn about the century-old ceramic work that can be seen in the subways and around the city. Ages five and older. \$5, \$3 for kids 3-17 and seniors. Schermerhorn Street and Bownum Place. Call for time. (718) 694-1600.

**KIDS MUSICAL:** Tuckermey Productions presents "Peter Piper Picks a New Profession." Peter Piper needs a new career; he picked peppers aren't just tongue-twisters—they're stomach-burners. \$10, \$7 kids 1-11 and 3 pm. The Impact Theater, 190 Underhill Ave. between 4th and 5th Aves. John's Place, two blocks from the Brooklyn Museum. (845) 797-1320.

#### OTHER

**Flea Market:** at Flatbush and Church. 10 am to 4 pm. Flatbush and Church avenues. (718) 284-5140.

**COUNTER RECRUITMENT:** Brooklyn Parents for Peace hosts an anti-military recruitment rally to speak out against the targeting of youth who are used in Iraq. Meet at 1 pm; march begins at 1:15 pm. Flatbush and Third avenues. (718) 624-5921.

**PANEL DISCUSSION:** Danny Simmons Corridor Gallery presents the curators and exhibiting artist Xenobia Bailey in a discussion about the works on display. 4 pm to 5 pm. 334 Grand Ave. (718) 230-5002. Free.

**CURATORS TALK:** Kendler International Drawing Space presents an examination of feminist art from the 1960s to the present. International, emerging women artists. Exhibit is entitled: "Re-generation: Emerging Women Artists. Works on Paper." 4 pm. 56 Water Street. (718) 834-9761. Free.

**GREEK CURSIVE:** Enjoy a variety of small plates indigenous to the Mediterranean. Tastings and drinks. \$75. 4 pm to 7 pm. 10 Strand Rd. Register online at www.allaboutbrooklyn.com/events/lookleem.htm.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE:** Brooklyn Philharmonic honors its recently deceased founding conductor, Stephen Landau. 4:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierpont St. (718) 634-1337.

**LIVE PAINTING:** Brooklyn Artists Group presents artist Brian Knapik in a display of his paintings while he paints live. 5 pm to 9 pm. 168 Seventh St. (718) 858-9009. Free.

**VARIETY SHOW:** Powerhouse Arts presents "Dumbos," a variety show. \$15. 8 pm. 37 Main St. (718) 665-5040.

**STRIKE A POSE:** Brooklyn Fashion Week pre-debuts party. \$30. 9 pm to 3 am. Purified Loft, 55 Flatbush St. www.fashionweekbrooklyn.com

### SUN, MARCH 11

Set Your Clocks One Hour Ahead

#### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**WILD TOUR:** Naturalist and author Wildman Steve Brill leads a hunt for wild creatures in Marine Park. \$12, \$6 kids. 11:45 am. Avenue L and Borel Street. Call for reservations. (718) 835-2153.

**SMITH STREET:** Brooklyn Center for the Urban Culture hosts a walk around Smith Street. Explore the architecture and history of this street. From Downtown Brooklyn through Boerum Hill and Cobble Hill to the Gowanus Canal. \$15, \$10 members, \$8 students and seniors. 11 am to 1 pm. Meet on the steps of Borough Hall. Court and Remsen streets. (718) 788-8500.

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT:** The Historic Districts Council hosts a tour of historic

See 9 DAYS on page 10

## CIVIC CALENDAR

### SATURDAY, MARCH 10

**Grand Army Plaza Coalition, Workshop:** Rethinking Grand Army Plaza. Bringing Communities and People Together. Brooklyn Public Library Central Institute Library Parkway at Flatbush Avenue, 9 am. Email coordinator@grandarmyplaza.org for information.

### MONDAY, MARCH 12

**Community Board 10, Traffic and transportation committee.** CB10 office 621 86th St. at Fort Hamilton Parkway, 7 pm. Call (718) 745-6827 for information.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 13

**72nd Precinct Community Council.** Monthly meeting. Mariem Heim Center (6520 Fourth Ave.), 7:30 pm. Call (718)

### 965-6326 for information.

### Park Slope Fifth Avenue BID Steering Committee and Park Slope Fifth Avenue Merchants Association.

Weekly meeting. Call (718) 871-8340 for time and location.

### Community Board 7, Sunset Park High School Task Force meeting.

CB7 office 630 Ave. at 42nd St. (718) 854-0003 for information.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

**Community Board 6, Monthly meeting.** Long Island College Hospital conference rooms A and B (339 Hicks St. at Atlantic Avenue), 6:30 pm. Call (718) 643-3027 for information.

### Community Board 2, Monthly meeting.

Polystechnic University auditorium (6 Metro

tech Ctr. between Jay Street and Flatbush Avenue), 6 pm. Call (718) 598-5410.

**Community Board 10, Police and public safety committee.** CB10 office 621 86th St. at Fort Hamilton Parkway, 7 pm. Call (718) 745-6827.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 15

**Community Board 6, Transportation committee.** On the agenda: DOT proposal to turn Sixth and Seventh avenues into one-way streets. New York Methodist Hospital Auditorium (506 Sixth St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues), 6:30 pm. Call (718) 643-3027 for information.

### District 15 Community Education Council.

Monthly meeting. Deputy Chancellor Andres Alonzo will discuss priorities and initiatives. PS 154 (1425 11th Ave. at Windsor Place), 7 pm. Call (718) 935-4267.

To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail news@brooklynpaper.com or fax (718) 834-9378.

**PUBLISHERS**  
Celia Weinroth (ext 104) • Ed Weinroth (ext 105)  
**EDITOR** Gersh Kuntzman (ext 119)  
**SENIOR EDITOR/PRODUCTION MANAGER**  
Vince DiMasi (ext 125)  
**GO BROOKLYN/BROOKLYN BRIDE EDITOR**  
Lisa J. Curtis (ext 131)  
**ART DIRECTOR** Leah Mitch (ext 127)  
**WEB DESIGNER** Sylvan Migdal (ext 126)  
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**STAFF REPORTERS**  
Aniella Cohen (ext 122), Dana Rubinstein (ext 123), Christie Rink (ext 103), Lilo Stairton (ext 202)

**ADVERTISING SALES**  
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**INTERNS**  
Rob Erera (ext 121), Michael Gardina (ext 120)

**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
Tom Cullen, Dennis Ho, Aaron Greenhood

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
Eva Barry, Karen Bolter, Nicola Lali, Matthew Lysak

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E-mail calendar listings to Editor@BrooklynPaper.com  
E-mail ad sales inquiries to AdSales@BrooklynPaper.com  
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To e-mail a staff member, use last name@BrooklynPaper.com

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KENSINGTON-MIDWOOD Midwood Paper, Kensington Paper, Ocean Parkway Paper.

NORTH BROOKLYN Greenpoint Paper, Williamsburg Paper.

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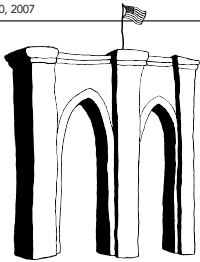
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# THE STOOP

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN DUMBO

## 'New York' can't find Brooklyn

It's a Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO shocker. For New York Magazine's annual "Best of New York" issue, there was — apparently — only one place in all of both neighborhoods (combined!) cool enough to make the list: the Dodge YMCA on Atlantic Avenue was voted Best Brooklyn Gym.

Yeah, I remember that gym. It's the one I read about in the police blotter every other week because someone else got an expensive watch taken from his or her locker.

Is there nothing else in these two neighborhoods that deserves a place on New York Magazine's vaunted list?

First we get take-grass in Cadman Plaza Park, and then Will Smith shows us for the Manhattan side of the Brooklyn Bridge to shoot his film, and now this.

I had gotten all excited when I saw Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO in the list of neighborhoods, only to experience utter incredulity when I saw only one entry. And the disappointment was even worse because of the momentary sense of excitement I felt that finally Gaphantianites were going to get the skinny on all the places we already knew and love around here.

What about Grimaldi's pizza and Jacques Torres's hot chocolate? Maybe the magazine was looking for something fresher (both places have made the list in previous years), so what about Almondine Bakery for best sandwiches or Henry's End for most imaginative (and tastiest) use of an elk?

For that matter, what about the newly opened Housing Works for best non-thrift thrift store (they sell Chanel — not exactly Salvation Army fare)? Or the Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory for best chocolate-chocolate chunk? What about Pedro's for best real-deal dive bar or Retreat for best absolutely-not-a-five-bar-bar?

DUMBO Improvement District Executive Director Tucker Reed called the magazine's selection of the Dodge YMCA "odd" considering all the other options available to the Manhattan-based staff (had it chosen to get out of the office, that is).

"DUMBO is a hidden treasure yet to be discovered by most of New York," said Reed.

The point is, the New York Magazine staffers who wrote the article could have pined in the Heights/DUMBO entry. If any one had bothered to walk down Water, Henry or Montague streets, I doubt he could have missed all that the Heights and DUMBO have to offer.

But Reed isn't relying on magazine articles to draw attention to the neighborhood.

"This is going to be a world-class waterfront destination and articles in New York Magazine aren't the only thing that draw people here," added Tucker. "As the area goes from industrial to more residential and commercial, more people will discover how great it is here."

But the extra publicity certainly couldn't hurt. Sure, not too many Brooklynites read New York Magazine — "Let's not go into what I think about that publication," said Rob Peris, district manager of Community Board 2 — but Gaphantianites who think DUMBO is a flying cartoon elephant could certainly use a clue.

How many of them do you think are going to come all the way to Atlantic Avenue to use a gym?

**THE KITCHEN SINK**

The Brooklyn Heights Association handed out four awards for architectural excellence during its yearly meeting last week. The owners of a townhouse, two brownstones and **Jack the Horse Tavern** received the honors for painstakingly restoring their buildings in historically accurate fashion. ... Our pal, nabe activist **Aaron Naparstek**, has been nominated for a **Jane Jacobs Medal** for his work challenging convention and promoting good urban design. ... The Brooklyn chapter of the **American Red Cross** is offering babysitting, life guard and CPR classes at its Pineapple Street office throughout April. Visit [www.nyredcross.org](http://www.nyredcross.org) for class dates and times. They're even offering a pet first aid class, in case poor little Muffy chokes on her kibble. ... Kudos to another pal, Scott at **Retreat** in DUMBO, for creating a great new cocktail that combines ginger vodka, grapefruit juice, Amaretto and a touch of grenadine. After our editor downed a few, he demanded that the drink be named "**The Gersh**." The name change is pending. ... Last we forget: Last week's Paper suggested that the hot chocolate at **Almondine** in DUMBO was not as good as the cocoa across the street at **Jacques Torres**. But many a reader reminded us that Almondine's cookies are better. ... The folks at **Flying Saucer**, an excellent coffee bar on Atlantic Avenue, were complaining the other day about the declining quality of the bageets they get from that overrated, Manhattan-based chain, H&M. Our response: buy Brooklyn!

Email us at [Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com](mailto:Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com)

### HEIGHTS LOWDOWN

Christie Rizk

## Deluxe singles bar in the sky



Do you come here often? The Oro condo tower on Gold Street in Downtown Brooklyn (above left) is being marketed as a singles' paradise, complete with bar (right), pool, screening room and gym to cover all of today's single person's bases.

By Christie Rizk

The Brooklyn Paper

The tallest singles club in Brooklyn is open for business.

The 40-story Oro Condo — the tallest condo tower to be built since the neighborhood was uprooted in 2004 — is nearly completed, and real-estate agents have already started selling the apartments to hip new clients.

The place — with its own bar, screening room and pool — is being billed as one-stop shopping for singles.

"Who needs to go to the gym, out to a bar or to the movies when you live in a place that offers [it all] under one roof?" promises the broker's promotional material. "Bring the party to you."

And even though the building does of-

fer two- and three-bedroom apartments, its glossy PR campaign shows no signs of such things that can really kill the free-love buzz: families, children or strollers.

Prices also seem geared towards rich Wall Street bonus babies.

Studio apartments start at more than \$300,000 — a small price to pay to be surrounded by so many exciting single people.

"Oro's very attractive price points will give buyers the opportunity to get in on the ground floor," said Andy Geringer, managing director of Prudential Douglas Elliman Developments.

The 303-unit tower, at 306 Gold St., will be completed in 2008. Its twin — to be named later — will rise next door at 313 Gold St. There is no projected completion date for that building.



## Bubby's in DUMBO is back!

By Christie Rizk

The Brooklyn Paper

DUMBO rejoice! Bubby's is back.

Neighborhood pie enthusiasts — who feared they would no longer be able to get dessert with a view after the popular waterfront restaurant was shut down last week for health code violations — were happy to hear that Bubby's is a claim.

The popular Main Street eatery was shut down by the Department of Health on Feb. 23 when inspectors found 93 points worth of health code violations during a four-hour inspection of the restaurant.

A Health Department source told The Stoop that an inspector had found rat droppings and poorly stored food at Bubby's. But owner Ron Silver insisted that the de-

partment — which had been on a rampage ever since a rat infestation at a Manhattan Taco Bell became an international story on the Internet — had shut him down unfairly.

"We run a clean ship," said Silver, insisting that his restaurants have never had a problem with rats — "not ever."

Silver did acknowledge that there were some legitimate violations, but added that it only took restaurant staff eight hours to bring the place back up to code.

"Conditions couldn't have been had enough for them to close me down if it only took us eight hours to fix everything," Silver said.

Four hours for an inspection was also a little excessive, he added. "Inspections never take that long."

Other restaurant owners around Brooklyn have also complained that the Health De-

partment has been "over-reacting" since the Manhattan rat debacle.

One owner, who did not wish to be identified, told the Stoop, "It's a draconian department run by completely incompetent people. They're overreacting."

City health officials have insisted that all restaurants have been, and will continue to be, treated fairly during health inspections.

"Inspectors only cite violations that they see," said a department spokesperson. "Our only mission is to enforce the Health Code and keep restaurants safe for customers."

Bubby's reopened on March 3 — the place was so clean that inspectors found not a single violation.

"We are going to go above what the Department of Health demands," said Silver. Now, let's get some of that pie.

## Wreck finally gone after 3 weeks

By Michael Giardina

The Brooklyn Paper

The notorious rat that was abandoned by the entrance to the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway on Hicks Street was finally picked up last Thursday.

A mystery towing company, contracted by Department of Sanitation, towed the maroon Ford Escort on March 1 — almost three weeks after it was junked and 12 days after The Brooklyn Paper called in the wreck to 311 and was promised it would be gone within 72 hours.

The Sanitation Department tagged



It's gone! A private towing company finally removed an abandoned car from this street on March 1.

the car for pickup on Feb. 23 — the day the car was officially assigned to a private contractor, said Matthew Lipani, an agency spokesman.

But Lipani would not give us the name of that outside company, so we couldn't ask why it took five days for the car to be removed after the tagging.

And Sanitation could care less. "Once it is tagged, it becomes the property of the private vendor," Lipani said. "They do what they want with it."

Whenever they want to get around to it, apparently.

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# THE STOOP

CARROLL GARDENS-COBBLE HILL BOERUM HILL  
RED HOOK

## Babyless writer in giftless jam

I have no babies and so, it has been easy for me to ridicule the extravagance of the brownstone baby belt: the \$1,000 strollers, the sexy leggings-and-baby-sling combo, the whirlwind of kid-friendly Smith Street brunches I kept hearing about.

The whole Grated scene was funny — in a mock-the-bourgeoisie kind of way. I mean, the last time I lived near so many mothers, I lived with my own. And she, with the exception of a brief period in the 1980s, never wore leggings. In fact, as I recall, few mothers I knew were sexy, and the ones that were had awful nicknames.

And while there are all kinds of reasons for that, the truth is that Brooklyn's life yoga moms made me feel a little like I had settled into an alternate universe where no one was aging.

Then my sister Danya had her first child. I became an aunt, and the teenager who helped me skip a day of eighth grade to go to a Ganesha ceremony became the mother of six pounds of flesh named Eden. Suddenly, it was time to find out what happened inside the belly of the yoga mom beast: the kids' boutiques. Auntie had to deliver a gift.

In pre-Eden days, I had felt sorry for the parents who dressed their progeny in tiny tees that said "I Party Naked" or "Chicks dig me." Now I found myself on Court Street, talking with salesclerks about them.

"Parents now have a little sense of humor," the clerk at Pizzazz Kids said, adding that the "Bald is Beautiful" shirt was "really popular as a baby shower gift."

To give a little background, my sister is the person who introduced me to ringer tees a little over a decade ago at the Salvation Army. Our mother yelled at her for letting me bring one home, describing the red-on-white "Virginia is for Lovers" shirt as "dirty-looking."

I loitered at this point-to-point-sing shirt rack pondering what it would mean to buy my niece a shirt that matched her momma's taste for mid-'80s alterna-culture.

Would I be bringing her a piece of her mom's youth, or simply dressing an innocent babe in an overpriced tee-shirt fashioned after some rag that Kurt Cobain once played a show in? I couldn't bring myself to buy one, only to succeed later that day to a \$14.99 hot pink tube dress/infant gown from American Apparel's baby line. It was cute.

I contemplated returning the baby tube dress as soon as I reached the reality of Court Street and spotted an American Apparel ad inside a newsbox. The model was wearing a tube outfit similar to the one I had just bought my three-day-old niece. She looked like she may have been on her way to a "Boogie Nights"-themed fat party.

Oh, consumer culture. Oh, children. The combination was giving me morning sickness.

Breaving the nausea, I walked down Smith Street into the capital of holistic, maternal buying: Area Mom and Baby. I smiled at the fleeced-out toddlers blocking my entry. A free yoga class came with every \$100 spent on overpriced baby wear.

I listened closely as the women around me compared the merits of the New Native baby carrier to that of the costlier Ergo version. I asked intelligent questions about infant weights and breast size, only leaving the store when a woman in Uggs and a baby over her shoulder started talking in a loud voice about protecting her children from germs on the subway and I remembered the scratch in my throat.

Paranoid, self-righteous, unfit for urban life? Maybe last week. This week, Ugg woman could be my sister. I closed the door carefully behind me.

### THE KITCHEN SINK

Our pal **Pasquale Azzorello**, the painter who made a DUMBO construction site bloom with murals, will be speaking with 15 other emerging women artists at Red Hook's **Kentler International Drawing Space** today (Saturday) at 4 p.m. ... So much for Mayor Bloomberg's much-ballyhoosed task force of local leaders to decide how vacant firehouses, like **Engine 204** on Degraw Street, should be disposed of. This week, a spokeswoman for City Planning told The Stoop that the sale of Engine 204 was proceeding as planned. The City Council will hold a final vote on the site's future by April 23. ... Off the waterfront: Columbia Street literary outpost, **Freebird Books**, is celebrating its three-year anniversary. It's been a tough road (check out the huge potholes and constant construction outside their front door) but the shop has come through for the nabe with regular readings, free WiFi, a cafe that sells corned dogs (seriously, Jerry's) and a whole shelf of local indie books. Owners **Sam Citrin** and **Rachel London** promise at least one "wine-added" rendition of their Lynny Skyvond anthem at a birthday bash on Sunday from 7-10 p.m. ... The folks at **Flying Sower** on Atlantic Avenue, were completing the other day about the declining quality of the bueys they get from that overrated, Manhattan-based chain, H&M. Our response: buy Brooklyn! **E-mail us at Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com**

### BROOKLYN SOUTH



Ariella Cohen



Is it fake or real? This new red-light "camera" was recently installed on Smith Street, just below Atlantic Avenue. Locals don't know if it's real or a decoy — and the DOT isn't saying.

## Smile: You may be on 'camera'

By Michael Giardina  
The Brooklyn Paper

The city has installed a new red-light camera on Smith Street — but no one knows if it's real or a decoy, and the Department of Transportation certainly isn't saying.

The "camera" is one of 300 such boxes on city streetcorners — 200 of which are just decoys that don't actually take a picture of cars illegally going through the red light.

Most Smith Street residents and business owners think this one's a fake, too.

"It's not doing anything," said Phil Marcano of Phil's Sports Wear. "It's a ploy camera."

At the restaurant next door, a worker agreed. "I don't think it works," said Charles Costa. "So people pass the red lights."

But real or not, the Department of Transportation says the camera will be a deterrent because drivers won't know if they're being

photographed as they go through a red light. The safest way to avoid a ticket, after all, is to stop at the red.

"The goal is to encourage people to comply with the lights," said Chris Gilbride, assistant press secretary for the NYC DOT.

If indeed the camera is real, neighbors would be pleased. "The traffic is out of control," said Kevin Erickson, a resident of Carroll Gardens. "A camera could make a difference."

## Corcoran's still hot on the Hook

By Robert Guskind  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Is Red Hook's slip showing?

A renovated storefront at 293 Van Brunt Street — the ground floor of a building famously bought two years ago by the real-estate legend herself, Barbara Corcoran, for \$1,075 million — is still vacant, despite Corcoran's boast that she could get \$2,500 a month for the space.

It's now priced to move at \$1,800 — and it still hasn't moved.

"A number of storefronts are empty," says one local businessperson. "It's not that easy to fill them."

But this building was supposed to be different: Corcoran's Red Hook buy was the real-estate equivalent of David Bowie calling a band his favorite. Asking prices in the neighborhood started going up once Barbara Corcoran had her bet on Red Hook.

Yes, some new businesses have opened in the last year, including a jewelry shop and a

high-end soap emporium, but they are all mostly clustered on Van Brunt between Wolcott Street and the Fairway.

The "Barbara Corcoran Storefront" (yes, that's what some people in the neighborhood call it) is several blocks north.

When Corcoran bought the three-story building, she was projecting \$2,500 a month in rent for the storefront, and \$1,600 and \$1,750 monthly for two apartments upstairs. The apartments eventually rented, but the storefront still sits.

The Corcoran Web site still beckons with a glowing description.

"IMAGINE having the entire ground floor, basement and the backyard of a townhouse for the business of your dreams," it says. "Open, airy and filled with light, this would be perfect for a restaurant, artist's space/gallery or retail store. ... Fairway supermarket is now open and the Queen Mary cruise ships have arrived!"

The ship may have come in to Red Hook, but a tenant has not.

But don't draw the wrong conclusion, said the Corcoran broker assigned to the property.

"This property is not in trouble, and neither is Red Hook," said Beth Kenkel, the agent. "We all strongly believe in Red Hook. Some people thought Barbara bought the building as some kind of press play. And, yes, she may have overpaid just a bit, but in the long run, this is going to be a great investment."

Kenkel said that Corcoran has fielded "many offers" on the property, but "Barbara is very discerning about whom she'll rent to. But I can tell you this: I am on the verge of renting this out. I may be calling you in two days with a big story."

Kenkel reiterated that prices in the neighborhood are still rising, an indication that renters, buyers and investors are still bullish on a neighborhood that has been on seemingly everyone's "hot" list for a year. "Believe me, it's still hot," said Kenkel.

## Bellying up to a Gardens barista

The Brooklyn Paper

Carroll Gardens caffeine addicts are uniting to raise money for a Naidre's barista who has been diagnosed with Hodgkin's Disease.

On Sunday, the friends and colleagues of Emily Storm, the 23-year-old coffee slinger at the popular Henry Street location, held a benefit for her at Lido Bar in Red Hook.

"Working at a coffee shop, she doesn't have health insurance," said Ambrose Austin, Naidre's general manager. "We

wanted to do something to help out, especially when she found out she would have six months of chemo."

About 100 people turned out for the benefit. The proceeds — combined with donations from the Carroll Gardens Naidre's and the newer location on Seventh Avenue between 11th and 12th streets in Park Slope — totaled \$5,000.

"I think it speaks to the neighborhood spirit [that we raised so much]," said Austin. "Working at a coffee shop, you get to know

a ton of people and you're a part of their lives."

And then, of course, there's what Austin calls Storm's "hilarious" personality, "wry sense of humor," and "intelligence."

Storm's last two scheduled shifts were on Friday and Saturday, although she may pick some more shifts if she's feeling up to it. Meanwhile, workers at both Naidre's coffeehouses will continue to raise money. If you want to help out your neighborhood barista, do stop by. — **Dana Rubinstein**

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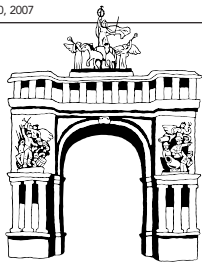
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# THE stoop

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## Slope on wrong-way street

In what seems like a monthly endeavor, I attended yet another forum on where Park Slope is headed.

Forgive me. I hate to sound cynical, but we all know where Park Slope is going, and I had mostly given up being angry about it since it seems to be a done deal.

But at last week's "Where Goes the Neighborhood?" forum sponsored by the Park Slope Civic Council, I got a fresh reason why I'm so angry about the direction of the neighborhood.

Throughout the uneventful evening, people kept talking about "compromise," as in, how the up-zoning that is turning Fourth Avenue into a high-rise, yet still-ugly, boulevard was a "compromise" to prevent over-development on the side streets.

Or how a proposal to expand Park Slope's historic district is a "compromise" because it could halt some development, but also hinder a homeowner's ability to alter his own property.

But I couldn't help feeling that the evening wasn't about compromise at all, but about steamrolling.

As in, we got steamrolled. Architect Stuart Portz, a former Landmarks Commissioner and presently a consultant for the Municipal Art Society on the Atlantic Yards project, explained how Bruce Ratner's mini-city was "a perfect example of backwards planning."

Ratner, he said, is "building a huge project and then the city will deal with the impact on the streets, the transportation systems, the sewers and the schools. But they needed to do all that stuff first," he said.

Well, they haven't and they won't. Instead, the Department of Transportation comes in after the fact and says it wants to convert quiet Sixth Avenue and commercial Seventh Avenue into one-way thoroughfares, high-speed Yellow Brick Roads to and from Ratner's state-polished Emerald City.

Compromise? There isn't any. You just got steamrolled. I can't help having this feeling of déjà-vu. I grew up in another long-gone enclave of artists, activists and preservationists: Greenwich Village. And look what has happened to that charming, old-world area of Manhattan. The small scale of the buildings is gone, the cute shopping streets are all brand name, and no artist can afford to live there unless his last name is Picasso. So the issue isn't compromise. The issue, apparently, is learning to accept the changes, or finding a new place to live.

See PS...I LOVE... on page 4

PS...  
I LOVE YOU



Nico Lalli



Richard Muzio, seen in front of his neighbor's awning, has spent years trying to get the city to force the neighbor to remove the three inches of the awning that he claims extend onto his property.

## Bad awning, bad neighbor

By Laura Raskin  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Three inches are all that stand between Richard Muzio and a good night's sleep.

Muzio, owner of the three-story building at 653 Vanderbilt Ave., has been asking his neighbor, the wine store Fermented Grapes, to remove its mauve awning because it encroaches on his property by a pesky three inches.

Because of those three little inches, Muzio now finds himself fighting a war of red tape. His foe is the Department of Buildings, which has refused to pass judgment, leaving Muzio and his neighbor at a bitter impasse.

Muzio, it seems, is just not a high priority for the department.

"The department will prioritize responding to a complaint about a building in danger of collapse over a complaint about a building with an illegal sign," said agency spokeswoman Kate Lindquist.

Since 2004, Muzio has entered nine complaints against the awning above Fermented Grapes. He's been scrupulously documenting his struggle — a file folder overflows with detailed documentation of what he calls an endless "tamarind," as well as a survey for which he paid \$500 that indicates the awning is, indeed, encroaching on his property.

By three inches. But no one wants to do anything about what he believes is a clear and present danger (to his sanity, if nothing else).

And certainly, not everyone believes Muzio or his surveyor. "There's no encroachment. It's our property," said Fermented Grapes' co-owner Deborah Summer, who opened the store with Jan McGill in September 2004.

Summer told Muzio three years ago that she would not take down the awning. She

has refused to speak to him since.

But Muzio persisted: In November, 2005, the matter even made it to court after the Buildings Department cited Summer for installing the awning without a permit, though a judge dismissed the charge.

Besides, that was during a brief citywide moratorium on the enforcement of sign and awning laws anyway.

But that moratorium ended in December, and Muzio was quick to pester the Department of Buildings for a new inspection. Alas, this time the inspector came out in January, but left without issuing a violation.

Besides, said Lindquist, it's unlikely that a business would be required to remove an awning, even if it doesn't have permits, unless it "poses a threat to public safety."

Which leaves Muzio where he started, with no resolution in sight and with three inches of awning ruining his life.

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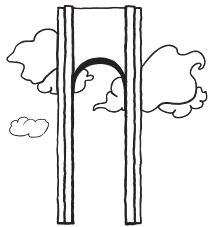
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# THE stoop

BAY RIDGE-BENSONHURST DYKER HEIGHTS  
BATH BEACH

## Why save the Green Church?

There is no question that it's sad to think that Bay Ridge United Methodist's final Mass will soon be said by a wrecking ball. It's a beautiful building, and it's no wonder so many people fought to save it. Or is it? Sometimes I remind myself of that old Vietnam-era query: "What are we fighting for?" Won't anyone stand up for progress any more? Won't anyone stand up and say that the neighborhood needs more housing?

Turns out, someone is: New York City Libertarian Party President Jim Lesczynski.

"If developers were simply freed from building regulations, and allowed to build as high as they would be willing to invest, there would be enough housing for anyone who wanted to live here, and then some," he said.

Lesczynski has a point: The reason rents are so high in Bay Ridge is because too many people want to live in too little space. But the sky is limitless, Lesczynski said, "even in Bay Ridge."

I'm not sure I agree that we should turn the neighborhood over to the developers (unless we eliminate all the subsidies they get, I suppose), but I do agree with his larger point: You can't stop progress.

I doubt anyone started a movement when the Ovington Family sold the farm on which the church sits. Like the church, it had been around for many generations and, presumably, many did not want to see it plowed under.

Imagine all the families that would never have had the opportunity to live in Bay Ridge if that farm was never plowed over? Imagine all the new families that will have the chance to move to Ovington and Fourth avenues once the church gives way to condos.

Not everyone wants to imagine that. "When you see these pieces of familiarity that have been part of your surroundings, you feel your whole life crumbling away," said Victoria Hofmo, president of the Bay Ridge Conservancy. "It feels like a part of me is being demolished by that wrecking ball."

I can understand that. I wish my hometown would have always stayed as I remembered it, but I understand that this is an unreasonable expectation. An aide to Councilman Vince Gentile seemed genuinely confused that anyone would question the "why" of saving the Green Church.

"The Green Church?" said spokesman Eric Kuo. "Have you ever walked by that church? It is absolutely beautiful."

I had walked by the church many times, but maybe I never took the time to really notice it, so on Monday I wandered over yet again and tried to appreciate the church.

I hate to say it, but I was not converted. I thought of all the new condos, and I thought about how my wife and I are trying to buy something, but can't because the prices are in the stratosphere.

Now I wait for the lighting bolt.

### THE KITCHEN SINK

Breaking meeting: A group of local preservationists will discuss the **Methodist Church** sale at an emergency meeting on Monday, March 12, at 7:30 pm at PS 170 (Sixth Avenue and 72nd Street). Call **Victoria Hofmo** at (718) 748-5950 for information.

... Medicare, Medicaid or Medicaid? **Councilman Vince Gentile** (D-Bay Ridge) is inviting neighbors to an information session on Medicare on March 31 at 2 pm at the Shore Hill Senior Center. Call Gentile's office at (718) 748-5200 or RSVP. ... **The Bay Ridge Community Council** is holding an amateur-only photo contest. All entries must be in by March 19 and an award ceremony will be held on March 27. For more information call (718) 748-7249. Pictures of KFC rats will not be accepted. ... **Dunk Full of Nuts** **Check Full of Nuts** on Third Avenue at 79th Street may be renamed **Check Full of Dunkin** after one astute Yellow Hooker tipster discovered Dunkin' Donuts pastries and cookies being sold there. When asked, the employees at the new coffee shop just smiled and nodded. ... **Kali Browne** has referred to her work to preserve thrill stores in Bay Ridge as "quite likely a fool's errand," and Yellow Hooker isn't one to disagree. But the news that **St. Vincent's Thrift Shop** on Fifth Avenue and 62nd Street will soon be moving to Queens may be reason enough to pay her a visit online at [petitionspot.com](http://petitionspot.com). ... Nice donation: **Caroline Erskine** was honored last month for giving \$2.1 million to **Lutherville HealthCare**. Consider this a sign of the Apocalypse: **Stute Sen. Marry Golden** (R-Bay Ridge) and Councilman Gentile sent out a joint press release for the first time since Yellow Hooker could remember. The issue that made these longtime cats and dogs kiss? The ongoing fight to get **Bay Imaging** to return patient records. In a related story: **Palestine and Israel** are merging to form **Jerusalem**. ... Gentile's "Hit the Books" tour will be at **New Utrecht Books** at 1743 96th St. from 1:30 to 5:30 pm on March 22. Let us all hope that the Councilman's reading voice is better than his singing voice (see story below right).

Email us at [Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com](mailto:Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com)

### YELLOW HOOKER

Matthew Lysiak



The 100-year-old Bay Ridge United Methodist church at Fourth and Ovington avenues appears to have a buyer—and a date with a wrecking ball.

## Hail Mary needed to save church

By Matthew Lysiak

The Brooklyn Paper

Preservationists and residents are cursing an unlikely plan to tear down one of Bay Ridge's most distinctive churches to make room for luxury condos.

Bay Ridge United Methodist Church, which earned a listing in the National Registry of Historic Places with its distinctive sandstone clock tower, has

graced the corner of Fourth Avenue and Ovington for more than a hundred years and now looks like it could be sold by mid-March, according to representatives at Massey Knakal Realty Services.

"The sale will be all wrapped up ... by the middle of March," said company spokeswoman Karl Neering.

The unique church's listing price of \$12 million makes it unlikely that any potential buyer

would maintain the historic property as is, instead involving in the much-feared wrecking ball.

The cost of maintaining the church has been an issue for years, the church said in a statement.

"We have spent an inordinate amount of money in repair attempts, to protect the people who pass through the property of the church," the statement said.

The news of the impending sale came as quite a shock for

officials under the impression that they still had a shot at preserving one of the few standing century churches.

"I truly believe the church has sold out this community," said Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge).

The Councilman joined the Bay Ridge Conservancy to negotiate a deal that would convert the property into 87 units of subsidized housing through the Con Ed Renaissance Housing Project.

The deal promised to give the church \$300,000 in revenue annually.

At the time, the church's Board of Trustees said the proposal "did not come very close to addressing our continuing problems of the deterioration of the building and the increasing cost of maintaining it."

Still, Gentile and others felt they could intercede, so many were outraged when The Brooklyn Paper informed them that the building was about to be sold.

"They intentionally kept us out of the loop because they didn't want to have to deal with the bad press," said Victoria Hofmo, president of the Bay Ridge Conservancy. "You think I am happy? They have been screwing with us for a year and a half now and they didn't even have the courtesy to let us know that they made the decision."

Hofmo said she has spent years on preserving what locals call the "Green Church."

"I have no doubt residents will have a fit if they see a wrecking ball crash through that church," said Hofmo. "No one wants to see that happen."

The current plan involves tearing down the church and a second building to make room for a 150-seat church and a six- or seven-story apartment building.

Not everyone is embracing the plan. Gentile is still looking for a way to preserve the Bay Ridge landmark.

"We haven't given up the fight yet," said his aid, Eric Kuo said. "We still have some cards to play."

## Vegas owner smells a rat

By Matthew Lysiak

The Brooklyn Paper

The owner of a Bensonhurst hot-spot believes he was shut down because of rats — the ones in government, not the ones in his restaurant.

The Vegas Diner was allowed to reopen on Sunday after being shut down after their lunch rush on Feb. 28 by an inspector from the Department of Health. But even with the doors now open, the owner remains convinced that the process was unfair.

"We have been opened for 25 years and our reputation has always been fantastic," said owner Ted Vlamis. "This is a case of DOH officers from Manhattan trying to look like they are doing their job after what happened at the Taco Bell [in Manhattan]."

Vlamis was referring to the infamous rat race in a Greenwich Village KFC/Taco Bell, where vermin were videotaped just one day after health inspectors gave it a clean bill.

Vlamis believes that now the DOH is scurrying around, looking for any little technical morsel it can pin on restaurant owners.

"Nobody is perfect, and they



Ted Vlamis (left), owner of the Vegas Diner, says the Health Department needlessly shut down his restaurant.

did find some cigarette butts behind the ice machine in the basement, and three of our cutting boards had scratches," said Vlamis. "But it is ridiculous that they are doing their job after what happened at the Taco Bell [in Manhattan]."

The popular Bensonhurst diner, famous for its Greek omelets and cheesecake, was ordered to close at 1 pm, when DOH inspectors claim to have discovered food stored at an improper temperature, evidence of smoking, and the absence of proper food registration.

The Vegas Diner had some significant problems and needs to do things differently," DOH spokesman Andrew Tucker said at the time.

## Gentile: American Idol?

By Matthew Lysiak

The Brooklyn Paper

Could vaudeville be far behind? Apparently, yes, very far behind.

It appears that Councilmember Vince Gentile's acting debut in "Shah! Don't Wake the Corpses," last Saturday, may not have had the shock value of Giuliani in drag, but it didn't exactly leave the audience at the St. Patrick's Auditorium in Bay Ridge begging for an encore, either.

Gentile sang two Irish folk songs, "Old Colonial Bay" and "Irish Rover," before exiting stage right.

Not a moment too soon, on-lookers said.

When asked if the Bay Ridge Democrat had talent, even Gentile's friend, Narrows

Community Theater President Helen Huizinga, hedged.

"Well, he was very excited, and the crowd loved him," said Huizinga. "You have to be a good actor to be a politician, right?"

The original play, presented by the Narrows Community Theater and written and directed by Betty Knoll, takes place in a fictitious pub in Ireland and features talented local actors and, of course, the five-minute cameo by the Councilman who played the role of an old Irish farmhand for three performances.

"We have lost some business," Vlamis said. "But trust me, they won't stay away from the Vegas Diner for long."

Have they forgotten about term limits? This could be the

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David Walentas would like to build rental units behind the former Independence Bank on Court Street and Atlantic Avenue. The new building would be the same height.

## Walentas plan for bank site on track

By Christie Rizk  
The Brooklyn Paper

A Cobble Hill apartment building project that was temporarily suspended last year is back in full swing.

Developer David Walentas's plan for a 37-rental-unit building on the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Court Street has been revamped and redesigned.

Community Board 6 rejected the Walentas's original plan for an 81-foot building in 2005, and the Landmarks Preservation Commission refused to give the company permission to demolish a smaller building on Atlantic Avenue, next to the property, in 2006.

But it seems the kinks have been worked out. "The project is definitely back up again," said project manager Sam Charney, who didn't want to go into detail before full design plans are re-

vealed in two weeks.

What is known is that Walentas's Two Trees Management wants to build a six-story building on the current parking lot behind the Sovereign Bank building, with stores at street level.

The LPC has approved the proposed building's facade, as it is required to do for any new structure going up in a historic district.

The initial proposal called for tearing down a small annex to the 84-year-old Renaissance revival-style bank, converting the old bank building to housing and connecting the two buildings with a glass bridge. But the LPC insisted on the preserving the annex.

Two Trees is now looking for a major retailer to occupy the bank space. Construction is set to start late this summer, and the building is expected to be done in 2009.

By Christie Rizk  
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's "Running Man" still hasn't gotten back on the road.

Gary Jarvis, the New Jersey native who said that he was only taking a six-week break after hitting the midway point in his quest to run all 1,599 miles of Brooklyn's streets, still isn't back a full week after he said he would be.

This from the man who lambasted The Brooklyn Paper for reporting that his last stretching and leg pain had derailed his ambitious plan.

"I'm starting to get anxious about the whole thing," he admitted this week on his blog, [runsbrooklyn.com](http://runsbrooklyn.com).

Jarvis speculated that he may need more time than he thought to heal from the first leg (get



"Running Man" Gary Jarvis, who said he'd be back on the road by now, is still idle, recovering from the damage done by running half of Brooklyn's 1,599 miles of streets.

it?) of his journey.

"While the general physical state of my body seems to have improved," he wrote, "[my] hamstrings are as bothersome as ever."

He says he's spent most of his down time working on his doctoral dissertation — a massive undertaking that remains, like his all-Brooklyn jog, unfinished.

Jarvis thinks he'll need a few more weeks to completely heal, and to keep an eye on a developing back problem.

"I'll admit the six-week timeframe for resting up was completely arbitrary," he wrote. "But if anything, it was conservative."

As we told Jarvis before, we can't wait to toast him at the finish line — if he doesn't burn out before then.

## Dodger great Clem Labine, dead at 80

By Ed Shakespeare  
For The Brooklyn Paper

Clem Labine, Brooklyn Dodger pitcher during the celebrated Boys of Summer era, died Friday at the age of 80.

As reported in The Brooklyn Paper last week, Labine had been at Indian River Medical Center in Vero Beach, Fla.

Brain surgery to explore a mass in his head led to a coma from which Labine never recovered.

Labine was a major leaguer for 13 seasons, eight with Brooklyn and three more with Los Angeles. Although his numbers wouldn't put him in the Hall of Fame, he lives on in the hearts of all Brooklyn baseball fans as a hero of Dem Bums' 1955 World Series-winning team.

Former Dodger manager Tommy Lasorda, who played with Labine, said the hurler never received the recognition he truly deserved.

"He was a great pitcher, but he was

surrounded by too many [Dodger] stars," Lasorda said. "He played the game the way it was supposed to be played."

In the Brooks' celebrated — and only — win over the hated New York Yankees, Labine pitched in four games of the Series, with a win and a save.

The next year — Brooklyn's last appearance in the World Series — Labine threw a complete-game shutout against the Yanks, though the Bronx Bombers went on to win the Series.

Two years later, the Dodgers were gone — and the 6-foot Labine went with them to Los Angeles.

In his big league career, Labine was 77-56 with a 3.63 ERA. His best season was that 1955 campaign, when he went 13-5.

Last week, his former teammate, Carl Erskine, told The Brooklyn Paper that "Brooklyn fans should know about Clem's condition. They may want to pray for him." Alas, Clem was right.

## Teen slugs woman, takes phone, on Court

By Lilo H. Stainton  
The Brooklyn Paper

### 84th Precinct

A teenage thug punched a woman and stole her cell-phone on Court Street around 3:30 pm on March 1, police said.

The 42-year-old woman had been involved in an argument with a gang of teenagers outside the Global Studies High School, on Baltic Street near Court Street, moments earlier. After she left the school, several students chased her down Court Street.

At the corner of Fourth Place, one thief caught up to the

victim and insisted, "Gimme the phone."

He punched her in the face, snatched the Motorola and ran off.

### Oh my guard!

A thief pummeled a grocery store guard who tried to prevent him from stealing from the Atlantic Avenue store on March 2, police said.

The robber tried to rush out the store, near the corner of Third Avenue, around noon. When the security guard tried to prevent him from leaving, the thug punched him in the mouth and ran off with an unknown amount of goods. The guard was left with a bloody lip.

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Target security

March 3 probably wasn't just another night on the job for one Atlantic Avenue security guard.

The 45-year-old observer was at his post, in a building near Third Avenue, when a stranger burst through the door shortly after 7:30 pm. The woman walked 15 feet into the lobby, tossed a glass bottle at the guard, and ran.

The bottle smashed against the wall behind him and he was not injured.

### Office worker

Someone took away more than the doctor's orders from a Montague Street clinic on March 2.

A woman's purse also disappeared from atop her desk at the third-floor offices, near Clinton Street, sometime between 11 am and 1 pm, police said.

The 43-year-old victim had left her bag in the morning and came back to discover that her wallet, along with several charge cards and her Social Security card, was missing.

### Legal eagles

Sometimes, there are no safety zones when it comes to crime.

A thief swiped a week-old laptop from the desk of a Court Street attorney after she left work on Feb. 27, police said.

### 88th Precinct

### Sexy beast

Clearly, the thief thinks pretty highly of himself.

Dressed in all black, with a large shopping bag on one arm, he pushed his way passed the store clerk at an Atlantic Terminal Mall lingerie store on Feb. 25 at 3:20 pm, announcing,

"Get the f--- out of my way. You can't do anything," police said.

But the security camera was rolling the entire time, and the video captured the 6-foot-1, 215-pound black man as he collected 30 bottles of "Very Sexy for Him," a house-brand cologne, and 200 pairs of underwear. The entire haul was worth nearly \$2,000.

**Beer bash**  
It wasn't about the Benjamins. More likely, the Linc-

colns. Trouble started at a Clason Avenue deli when one patron insisted he was short changed after purchasing a beer on Feb. 28, police said.

A man stumbled into the

store, near Putnam Avenue, just before 4 pm.

He bought a malt beverage and left, but returned moments later, insisting, "You didn't give me my change."

When the 22-year-old clerk stood his ground, the thirsty man began pulling candy from the shelves.

He then withdrew a red box-cutter and slashed the clerk on the right hand. When a 19-year-old employee tried to intervene, the knifeman stabbed his right leg.

Both workers refused medical attention.

### Attacked

She was almost home safe. Instead, a robber met his victim at the door of her Carlton Avenue home and threatened to shoot her if she didn't turn over her purse on Feb. 28.

"Give it to me and you won't get shot," the thief insisted, around 2 am.

The brute punched the 28-year-old woman and threw her to the ground, then grabbed her bag and ran down Dekalb Avenue.

The bag held a brown de-

signer wallet, valued at \$200, her paycheck, several credit cards, her driver's license and a checkbook.

She described the thief as a white Hispanic man, 5-foot-9 and 140 pounds, dressed in a dark ski jacket.

### Toilets to everything

Thieves swiped everything — including the kitchen sink — from a North Elliot Place construction site around Feb. 23 and Feb. 26, police said.

The 60-year-old owner said the job site was locked tight at 10:30 am on Feb. 23. But when he returned three days later, he discovered the damage at the building, which is off Flushing Avenue.

The thieves had broken through the lock on the back door and damaged an inside door to steal a pair of screw guns, a power saw, three toilets, three sinks, a dozen 25-gallon buckets of paint, a jack hammer, two grinders and five tubs of roofing glue.

All told, the goods were valued at over \$4,500.

### Dell gone

Some projects are just cursed. It's not yet clear if that's the case with a job on Ashland Place near Fulton Street. But sometime between 1:50 pm and 2:10 pm on Feb. 26, someone swiped two Dell laptops and several computer cables from an office at the project, police said.

A 41-year-old employee saw four men running from the office and discovered a chain on the door had been cut.

**Moving pictures**  
Burglars grabbed a digital camera from a Lafayette Avenue parking garage office last week, police said.

Sometime between 4 pm on Feb. 23 and 9:30 am on Feb. 27, the thieves pried open a locked door at the trailer inside the lot, at Ashland Place, and swiped the Canon Sure Shot.

76th Precinct

### Thief escaped

A sticky-fingered clothes hound made off with more than \$2,400 in designer duds when he found a suitcase sitting on a Red Hook stop, police said.

The 45-year-old victim was on her way out of town on March 4. Around 2:20 pm, she left her suitcase on the stoop of her Van Dyke Street home and ducked back inside for another bag. When she emerged again from the house, near Richards Street, the bag was gone.

But a neighbor saw a stranger hauling the high-end fashions — including a pair of \$800 boots, a \$1,500 suit, several blouses and a slip — out of the suitcase and stuffing them into a shopping cart. The victim declined to press charges, police said.

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 22nd day of February, 2007, bearing Index Number 002054/02/2007, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk of the Civil Court, CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me the right to — 1. Assume the name of Judith Valerius. My present name is Jarda Gonsky. My present address is 7020 Bay Parkway, Brooklyn, New York 11204. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is February 1, 1977. — 2. Assume the name of Salina Laura Gonsky. My present name is Salina Laura Gonsky. My present address is 7020 Bay Parkway, Brooklyn, New York 11204. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is April 22, 1978.

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# Terrace PO'd by postal hours

By Nica Lalli  
The Brooklyn Paper

Two workers at the Windsor Terrace post office have enraged the neighborhood with a simple demand that they be given a lunch break.

The other day, The Stoop's switchboard lit up with complaints after a sign was posted explaining that the Prospect

Park West postal substation would be closed every day from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

"I mean, they have a job to do!" screamed one of our callers. "And this is what they do? It's just another thing that's so wrong. And we have no control over it."

Postal officials approved the lunch break and have responded by sending over a "Mobile Post Office" truck —

though residents say it's not always there.

The two postal workers refused to give their names for this article, but said they need a midday break because the crowds have become unmanageable ever since a third worker broker her foot in November.

"It was just the two of us through Christmas, and it was terrible," said one worker. "The line was through the door. We complain every day to [managers at

the main post office on] Ninth Street, but they don't listen."

After being contacted by The Stoop, a staffer for Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-Park Slope) said the congresswoman would send a complaint to the Postmaster General.

But she said she'd send it from a different post office than the one on Prospect Park West.

## 7 for '07 in Slope

The Brooklyn Paper

All it took were a few bags, some strong coffee, and plenty of civic pride for members of the Park Slope Civic Council to come up with the group's priorities for the year.

Here is the list of initiatives that came out of Saturday's brainstorming session/branch at the YMCA on Ninth Street:

- The biggest news: Stop the transformation of Sixth and Seventh avenues to one-way traffic, as proposed by the Department of Transportation.
- Identify locations for more bike racks.
- Host the first Annual "Stoop Night" on June 21 (to celebrate the summer solstice).
- Form a study group to investigate tax breaks and grants to encourage more "green" action in Park Slope.
- Clean up commercial areas.
- Sponsor a "Buy Local"



Seventh Avenue was a congested mess on Wednesday — as it often is. A city plan would convert it to a one-way, southbound thoroughfare.

campaign.  
• Install new newspaper kiosks to eliminate clutter on area street corners (full disclosure: The Brooklyn Paper does not currently have newsboxes on the street, so don't

blame us).

If any of the initiatives interest you, volunteer by calling the Park Slope Civic Council at (718) 832-8227 or by emailing mail@parkslopeciviccouncil.org.

— Lalli

## POLICE BLOTTER

# Trio loads up on Treos in midday heist

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Three men barged into a T-Mobile store on Fifth Avenue on March 2 and took 20 phones in a brazen 2 p.m. heist, cops said.

The three men entered the store, saw what they wanted, snatched it up and left. A customer who saw the whole thing didn't stay until cops got there, however, and police are waiting to review the store's security tape.

They would have seen it already, but the manager at the store, which is at 10th Street, said that "corporate" needed to approve the official viewing of the tape, according to the police report.

The total value of the heist was put at \$1,000 to \$1,500.

## Dissonance at jazz bar

A jazz-loving bar-crawler had her wallet stolen early in the morning on March 4 — and the thief rief up \$700 in charges before the woman could cancel her credit cards.

The 29-year-old woman had been hanging out at a popular Ninth Street jazz club, which is near Sixth Avenue, when she noticed that her wallet, containing \$25 and the credit cards, was missing.

## Hot for teacher's bag

A wallet belonging to a teacher at one of the high schools inside the John Jay HS building on Seventh Avenue was stolen from her bag at around recess time on Feb. 27.

The 30-year-old staffer told cops that she had left her handbag in her unattended classroom and when she returned, the wallet was gone. It contained a plethora of credit and gift cards — including one for Victoria's Secret — but no cash. All the cards were cancelled, and police have no leads.

## Dental low-giene

A dental hygienist lost her laptop and some credit cards when she left her bag near the front door of her medical office when she opened it on Feb. 27.

The 69-year-old hygienist had opened the Ninth Street clinic for business at around 10 a.m. About an hour later, the mailman came in and said that someone had left a purse in the outer hallway of the building, which is between Fifth and Sixth avenues.

Turns out, the bag was the hygienist's — and the laptop was gone.

## Mazdon't

At least two Park Slopers had their cars stolen overnight on Feb. 26, police records show.

In one case, a 14th Street man told cops that he'd parked his 2000 Mazda, valued at \$10,000, on 15th Street, between Fourth and Fifth avenues, on Sunday night, Feb. 25. But when he returned the next morning, the car was gone.

An 11th Street man complained of the same thing at roughly the same time. He'd parked his 1992 Honda Accord, which has a \$2,000 value, on his block, which is between Third and Fourth avenues.

## The bad news

A popular Grand Army Plaza newsstand was broken into and robbed of \$2,000 overnight on Feb. 26.

The owner of the stand said he locked up at 6 p.m. But when he returned, bright and early the next morning, he noticed that the lock had been clipped and \$2,000 was gone.

## A man robs a maid

An Eighth Street maid service was broken into and robbed of \$900 in an overnight burglary.

The company told cops that the office was secure when workers left on Feb. 25, but when they returned the next morning, the money was missing.

The owner of the business, between Second and Third avenues, told cops the perp got in thanks to a card key that apparently works throughout the building. The money had been in a filing cabinet.

## 5K bill was theft hint

A 13th Street woman returned home from a Kings Plaza department store with \$110 in purchases on Dec. 2 — but a month later, she got a bill for \$5,038.65.

The 50-year-old woman knew something was wrong when she got the bill. She reported the theft to cops on March 2.

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# PS...I LOVE...

Continued from page 3

## THE KITCHEN SINK

It was all quiet on Sixth Street last week, even after the New York Post reported that New England Patriots coach **Bill Belichick** — who so famously bailed on becoming Jets head coach in 2000 — had bought a \$2.2-million townhouse for his alleged mistress, **Sharon Stone**. At least someone could start a J-E-T-S Jets! Jets! chant outside the front door, just to razz Belichick a bit. ...

The Prospect Park Residence will rename one of its lounges "The Centenarian Room" in honor of residents who have reached the 100-year mark. The senior center currently has two residents over 100. ... What do you get when you volunteer to clean and maintain the Borough's biggest park? Breakfast (and a nicer, cleaner park)! Last Saturday, the 6,000 unpaid workers were invited to the annual Volunteers Recognition award ceremony. **Howard Dube** and **Mike Colon**, who each put in 200 hours of service in one year, were the recipients of the **Mary Gregg Award**. The Administrators' Awards, for those who work 500 hours in one year, were given to **Chris Belden**, **Danielle Brissett**, **Bart Chazar**, **Howard Dube**, **Tim McKinney**, **Mark Ravitz**, and **Jo Beth Ravitz**. ... Brooklyn-based poet and not-for-profit do-gooder **Laura Silver** has left her compost garden and the comforts of her home to help to spend the spring in Senegal. Silver — a Brooklyn Paper contributor who will always be known as "The Knish Lady" for her love of the potato-filled delicacy — will be lending her unpaid skills to the Senegalese Association for Research, Education and Support for Development, which helps women learn to farm so that they do not have to leave their families to work in the city. ... **PS 107** on Eighth Avenue is gearing up for another great year in its "Readings from the Fourth Floor" series. This year, the big names include **Mo Willems**, **John Hodgman**, **Sarah Vowell**, **Jonathan Lethem**, **David Rakoff** and **Jon Seisak**. The first reading, on March 28, will center on Iraq and feature **New Yorker** staff writer **George Packer** and **Leslie Gelb** from the Council on Foreign Relations. Don't worry, the readings take place after your tot is asleep. Go to [www.ps107.org](http://www.ps107.org) for tickets. ... The Church of the Virgin Mary is hosting a concert and reception on March 24 to benefit the Lebanese people. The ticket price is a bit steep at \$55, but all money collected will go to the Caritas charity. And let's face it, listening to some music and eating food isn't a bad way to help a whole bunch of people. Email us at [Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com](mailto:Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com).

Nica Lalli, a member of Community Board 6, is also the author of the forthcoming memoir, "Nothing: Something to Believe In" (Prometheus Books), which will be out next week.





## OUR OPINION

## Yards built on lies

ALMOST EVERY WEEK BRINGS MORE evidence that Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards mega-project is built on a foundation of deception.

This week's example comes in the form of Judge Ira Harvary's ruling that Ratner acted improperly when he made a back-room deal with another developer to get control of a privately owned building that stands in the way of his \$4-billion mini-city.

The building is owned by Henry Weinstein. One of his tenants, developer Shaya Boyelgreen, illegally sold his lease to Ratner, who then told state authorities that he "controlled" the building.

But that "control" was just a mirage — a shell game designed to fool our lax state authorities into believing that they would not be condemned so much property in the Atlantic Yards footprint.

The state's use of eminent domain to clear privately owned land and turn it over to Ratner is one of the most controversial elements of the project — and, in fact, is still being argued in the federal court.

It's unclear how Harvary's ruling will affect Ratner's project, given that it unmasks Ratner's deception after state authorities have signed off on the condemnation of Weinstein's building.

But what is clear is that some of Ratner's supporters would certainly have thought twice about backing a developer whose land acquisition plan was partly built on an illegal lease purchase apparently meant to deceive state authorities.

Atlantic Yards-watchers should also be interested in another piece of news this week. Down in Florida, two executives from Bruce Ratner's parent company, Forest City Enterprises, admitted that Atlantic Yards won't be completed until at

least 2022 — six years after Ratner has promised.

Much of whatever support Ratner has in Brooklyn for his mega-development comes from the 2,250 units of below-market-rate housing included in the project.

Would supporters have gotten behind Ratner if they had been told — up front, when it mattered — that those units would not be ready until 2022?

If then, of course, Forest City Enterprises Vice President Bob O'Brien admitted, "We are terrible" at projecting dates for completion of projects.

After all, Ratner's Metrotech was supposed to take five years. It took 14. And it was filled with promises, too — promises of a lively Downtown neighborhood filled with entrepreneurs (not government and government-related office workers).

Those promises, like most everything with Bruce Ratner, turned out to be a mirage.

## ALL DRAWN OUT



Cartoon: Fleming

## LETTERS

## Slope goes nuts over 'insane' one-way plan

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By fax: (718) 834-9278.

All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

To the editor,

I wrote this letter to my councilman, Bill DeBlasio, after reading your outstanding coverage of the Department of Transportation's plan to convert Sixth and Seventh avenues into one-way streets ("One-way 7th," March 3).

Dear Mr. DeBlasio:

I am very concerned by DOT's decision to make Seventh and Sixth avenues one-way streets. This insane plan will do nothing to ameliorate the already dangerous driving that occurs in the neighborhood — and in fact will only exacerbate it.

The only reason that I can think of that the DOT would want to do such a thing would be to make the route to Atlantic Yards a faster one for all those hurrying to a game. Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West are speedways; we don't need two more speedways in the neighborhood.

This is a NEIGHBORHOOD full of families, many with small children, and this complete lack of consideration of the need to make our streets SAFER — not faster — is not only imprudent, it is insulting.

Why don't we, the residents, have a SAY in this decision? And what are you doing to stop this decision? Or do you support it?

Susannah Taylor, Park Slope

To the editor,

I must say I was surprised by your editorial of March 3 ("City left with Yards mess"), which seemed to give the city Department of Transportation a pass on its responsibility to plan for traffic with or without the Atlantic Yards.

DOT paid for a parking study which indi-

cated that residential parking permits might be a good thing for Downtown Brooklyn — but it reneged on a promise to allow a pilot program to see if it would be successful.

The DOT paid for a traffic-calming study also for Downtown Brooklyn that was completed three years ago — yet has refused to implement the study. One of the corners that was included for traffic calming was the corner of Third Avenue, where a person was killed last month.

DOT refuses to do anything that will make traffic safer and help the Downtown community. The city approved and "greased" (for want of a better word) the Atlantic Yards project. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor Dan Doctoroff and Borough President Markowitz were active supporters of the project and got absolutely nothing in return for the affected people. No residential parking, no additional money, no new subways (as was done for lower Manhattan and the West Side, where the city — not the MTA — is paying for the extension of the No. 7 subway).

It's not the DOT that is left holding the bag — it's the residents of Downtown Brooklyn.

Name withheld, Boerum Hill

## The F does stink

To the editor,

The stink of giving some exposure to the problems of the F train ("What the F?" Feb. 24), I date the beginning of these problems to the introduction of the V train. Ever since the V

came into existence, I have wondered whether Brooklyn was ever represented at the table to give this service to Queens.

Elementary math tells you that two won't go into one. For Brooklynites standing on Manhattan subway platforms, watching useless, empty V trains heading for Second Avenue is a constant source of frustration.

It would be interesting if your newspaper could publish statistics on the number of F trains that run per hour prior to the introduction of the V. The V train must contribute in some measure to the "below-average regularity" that you cite.

Last year, I discussed the burgeoning population in Brooklyn, and the poor F train service, with one of our elected officials and he indicated that there was a possibility that the V might be extended into Brooklyn.

For the MTA spokeswoman to simply negate the possibility of either extending V service or utilizing the existing express tracks is to ignore the urgent need of a Brooklyn population that is nearing its historical peak.

Furthermore, even without the increase in population, there has been an increase in ridership, thanks to the Metrolink.

I urge the elected officials of Brooklyn, and Brooklyn's most fervent booster — Borough President Markowitz — to make this a priority issue with the MTA now. It just doesn't make sense to have an express track sitting idle.

And while they are at it, why not extend express service all the way to Coney Island? This would help other New York City resi-

dents get to our under-appreciated beaches, while providing much-needed service to people living in that part of the borough.

Jasmine Neeley, Park Slope

## Is it censorship?

Editor's note: We received this letter from the National Coalition Against Censorship, a Manhattan-based group.

To the editor,

The Brooklyn Public Library embroiled itself in a censorship controversy by excluding several pieces from a show documenting the Atlantic Yards neighborhood ("Photos the BPL doesn't want you to see," Feb. 17).

The exhibition, "Footprints: Portrait of a Brooklyn Neighborhood," first appeared at Grand Center, a community space in Prospect Heights. When the Library offered to host the show, it did stipulate that some of the works, which could be perceived as advocacy against the pending development of the area, should be excluded.

Even though the library offered other rationales — size and artistic merit — the political position advanced by some of the work was clearly the reason for the exclusion.

Is this censorship?

Censorship is the suppression of speech by public officials because of the content of the expression by said speech. The library personnel at BPL are public officials and the work was rejected because of its critical point of view, so their

action may be defined as censorship.

The BPL said that because it "serves the entire community," the library should not "offer platforms for one-sided advocacy on controversial political issues."

But we doubt the library would reject a book because it laid out an argument on a matter of social importance, no matter how one-sided the argument was. Why reject an artwork?

As a result of BPL's decision, viewers were deprived of information about the debate around the redevelopment. Is that the best way to serve a community?

Exhibiting work advocating a particular point of view does not mean that the library is endorsing that point of view any more than buying a book for the collection means endorsing its argument.

If the library is concerned about misperception, there are other ways to avoid appearing one-sided while protecting free debate: it could put a note explaining that the exhibition does not represent the position of the library and it could organize public programming or add work that represents other sides of the debate.

Removing work from a show because it takes a position not only goes against First Amendment principles, but also betrays the library's mission to represent a diversity of viewpoints.

It is a regrettable error of judgment on the part of an institution that has traditionally been one of the most principled defenders of the free circulation of ideas.

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**SMARTMOM** WOULD not be Smartmum without her Beautiful Smie. And she doesn't mean that coffee between her nose and her chin.

She's talking about Rose Duggins, a.k.a. Beautiful Smie, her babysitter and so much more, who for more than 15 years has subverted from her apartment in Coney Island to Park Slope to take care of Teen Spirit and the Oh So Feisty One.

But more importantly, she takes care of Smartmum. She's the unconditional mother everyone needs, the nurturing grandmother who soothes you when you're feeling down. The spirit of love and kindness that infuses the apartment like a Buddhist air freshener.

And it doesn't hurt that she helps with the housework and the cooking. She's the domestic goddess that Smartmum appreciates more than words or a weekly salary (plus vacation pay, sick days, and bonuses) can say.

And, did she mention, her smile lights up whatever room she is in.

In fact, when Beautiful Smie arrives at the apartment on Third Street (she always rings the door bell even though she doesn't need to), Smartmum breathes a sigh of relief and says to herself, "All is right with the world."

Born in South Carolina, Beautiful Smie was the third of seven children. Her father was a butcher and her mother was a housewife and doing mother.

When Beautiful Smie was 15, she moved to East New York to live with her aunt and uncle. She married young and worked as a cutter in a clothing factory. And her husband settled in Coney Island and had five children, who are now ages 30 to 40. She stayed home to take care of them, but in 1972, after her husband was murdered, she started working as a caregiver in Park Slope.

One of her first jobs was taking care of the children of PS 32's esteemed principal, Elizabeth Phillips, who was a teacher at the time.

Since then, Beautiful Smie has worked for numerous Park Slope families. She traveled the world with one of them. Staying in the best hotels "with chocolates on the pillows," she remembers. Beautiful Smie has traveled to Paris, Rome, and even Pittsburgh.

But she always loved the Slope. "The area has changed, but I always felt very safe here. The people in the area have always been friendly and nice. Even the ones I don't know."

In 1991, when Smartmum,

**SMART mom**

By Louise Crawford

Hepat and Teen Spirit first moved to Park Slope from the East Village by way of the Upper West Side, they met Beautiful Smie at the brownstone of the family she was working for at the time. Their children were growing up and they were trying to find a new family for Beautiful Smie.

Smartmum brought Teen Spirit over when he was 3 months

old. I got a chance to hold him and seems like we got attached right away," Beautiful Smie remembered. "I've been loving him for going on 16 years."

BS never complained climbing up the stairs to their fourth-floor walk-up on Fifth Street. When the family moved to Third Street, Beautiful Smie had the kitchen set up even before the movers were done.

When SMARTMOM told Beautiful Smie that she was pregnant in 1996, "I was surprised and happy to have a little girl come into the family," BS says. She met OSFO when she was just a couple of days old and they've been very close ever since.

Smartmum wonders if BS realizes how important she is not just to Teen Spirit and OSFO, but also to the adults in the family.

"I work hard so that Smartmum can go out to work," she said. "Wherever she wants to go, she knows the children are being taken care of. She has nothing to worry about at all."

After 15 years together, Smartmum and Beautiful Smie are close friends. "I can say anything to Smartmum," she said. "This is my second family. I feel like I'm going visiting instead of going to work."

It hasn't always been easy for Smartmum and Hepat to afford the services of a top-notch caregiver and housekeeper, but they are committed to employing Beautiful Smie as long as they can.

"Whatever happens, we always work it out," Beautiful Smie said.

She ought to know. For 15 years, Beautiful Smie has endured physical pain, anxiety and heartache, thanks to her high blood pressure and arthritis. Not only was her husband killed, but her youngest son died.

HER CHILDREN AND her nine grandchildren have been through a Cyclone ride of circumstances, as well. In the face of all this, she stayed strong.

Smartmum wanted to know the secret. "I've been hard working all my life — loving and taking care of my children and the children I work with. I try, if things get really hard, to think that the next day will be better. It won't be bad. Always, I think God, too. That helps me get through the bad times and the good."

Being around children, she says, also helps to keep the sad feelings at bay. And kids just love being around Beautiful Smie.

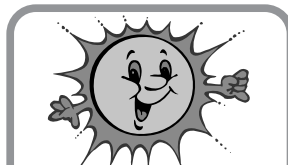
"The most important thing is to be there for them and hope for the best," she said. "Be loving and listen to what they have to say." "Children go through so much stuff. On the streets, at school, at home. You have to be strong and be there with them. Good or bad. They have to be able to come to you and let you know what's going on."

So listening is the thing. Smartmum should try that sometime.

Like Smartmum and most of her friends, Beautiful Smie has unfulfilled dreams: "The only thing I regret is not finishing school in South Carolina. I wish I was able to do more for the children. And I always wanted to be a nurse or an interior designer. I have a feeling for the way things should look."

Smartmum knows all about Beautiful Smie's artistic eye and penchant for moving things around. Whenever they go on vacation, Beautiful Smie rearranges the furniture. It can be a bit of a shock when they get back. But usually Smartmum is impressed with what she's done. But how does she do it? Teen Spirit asks, "Like, does she have a crew come in to help?"

Nobody. "Beautiful Smie is kind of magic that way."



The Brooklyn Paper 2007

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## CHECKIN' IN WITH...

### Helen Selsdon, anti-war mom

There's an element of American Kabuki in most protest marches: every six months or so, the "anti's" march on Washington. But in reality, the protests are more about raising awareness of the anti-whatever group than the cause that we're all supposed to be anti. Enter Helen Selsdon. She's not a leader of an anti-anything group. She's just a Gobble Hili mom who had a simple idea — Stop the war — and is now trying to spread the word by organizing a protest march from her neighborhood to Park Slope. She isn't quite sure if anyone will show up to her March 25 rally at 1:30 in Carroll Park (email brooklyn-mum@gmail for information), but Selsdon checked in this week with Gersh Kuntzman anyway.

**Q: So you're just a mom who's outraged?**

A: It's true, I'm a total nobody. Really, I'm just one person who is annoyed about this war. I travel a lot outside America and it's hard for Americans to remember that there's a whole world out there.

**Q: Large groups like Brooklyn Parents for Peace at least have mailing lists and volunteers. What are you doing to get the word out?**

A: Well, I was at the Kinok's the other day making flyers and a woman started talking to me and getting inspired. She said she'd bring a lot of people. That's how it has to be. This month, we enter the fifth year of this war. Everyone I know is outraged, so we have to show it.

**Q: But why? After all, the elected officials you hope to persuade here in Brooklyn all agree with you for the most part.**

A: Now you sound like my daughter, who's 10.

**Q: I was just playing Devil's advocate. But what did your daughter do?**

A: I told her we have to get out on the street and protest and she said, "What's the point?" And I said, "Maybe there is no point," but the least we can do is get out and show people that we're outraged."

**Q: But do these kinds of things work? Rumsfeld resigned, but the war goes on. The American death toll is 3,000, but the war goes on. The president got "a thumping" in the election, but the war goes on. What is your march going to do?**

A: Well, for one thing, it'll give people a rallying point around the anniversary of the invasion. And it'll give us all a chance to say, "We're sick of this." I know how this sounds, but I was inspired by Martin Luther King, Jr. He just stood up, and he changed things. Why shouldn't we all do that? We can change things. I don't have an answer, but if people see that a single mom can organize marches, they'll see that they can organize marches everywhere.

**Q: OK, if your daughter goes, I'll go.**  
A: She's going. I told her, "It may be a waste of time, but we have to do it."

## ONE-WAYS...

Continued from page 1

currently a quiet residential street — into one-way thoroughfares would alleviate congestion, and they say, make the roads safer.

It would "simplify the turning movements at intersections along the avenues which would enhance safety for pedestrians and motorists," the agency said in a statement.

Behind all the talk of transportation policy and urban planning is the looming shadow of Atlantic Yards, which, as proposed, would add 15,000 to 20,000 residents to neighboring Prospect Heights and 19,000 screening basketball fans to the area every game night.

Atlantic Yards is a state-approved project, but the job of fixing its myriad traffic woes belongs to the city.

This year, the DOT for at least rolling up its sleeves to fix a congestion problem that doesn't exist yet, but experts aren't sure if this is the right way to go about it.

"It's just a terrible idea," said traffic expert Andy Wiley-Schwartz, who is also the director of the transportation program at the Project for Public Spaces.

"We don't know what problem they're trying to solve, and that's a problem in and of itself," he added.

Perhaps the confusion stems from the fact that this kind of conversion doesn't happen very often. The last push for such a one-way conversion was in 2001, when merchants along Third and Fifth avenues in Bay Ridge thought that one-way streets would help their businesses by facilitating deliveries and reducing traffic. But the measure was defeated after traffic experts explained that two-way streets are actually better for the local economy.

Then again, Atlantic Yards requires more than just a little tweaking.

A typical basketball arena requires streets that are dedicated to getting lots of people to the game, and getting people away from there after the game. This is not usually a problem for arenas located away from city centers, but it's a whole different ball game for an arena in the middle of a low-rise neighborhood with poor traffic flow already.

Though the one-way streets may be ideal traffic solutions in other settings, in Park Slope, the solution for the 40 game nights every year will create problems for everyone else on the other 320 days, explained Wiley-Schwartz.

Two-way streets make it easier for merchants to attract customers and make drivers slow down, which makes it safer for kids, he explained. And car trips are much shorter when drivers don't have to navigate uni-directional roads.

In fact, the trend, nationwide, has been to convert one-way streets to two-way streets. Cities in Florida, California, Illinois, South Carolina and Washington are converting one-way streets back into bi-directional roads, USA Today reported.

But it's not only a national trend. Here in Brooklyn, activists are pushing for Court Street to be converted back to two-way traffic, and the Park

Slope Civic Council has also talked about changing Prospect Park West — a major speedway through the neighborhood — to a two-way street.

Former Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist — who now heads a major national urban planning group — said one-way streets became popular in the 1950s when they were devised as a quick way out of a town in case of a Communist nuclear strike. But now they're bad for the neighborhoods they're supposed to be serving, Norquist told the newspaper.

That was certainly the reaction on the street in Park Slope this week. "For a retailer, it's better if the street goes both ways," said Carl Manco, the owner of the Sport Prospect Park Slope clothing store on Seventh Avenue. "That way, you get more exposure. A one-way street

doesn't help us at all."

Laura Natter, the owner of Grab Specialty Foods, agreed. "It would affect my business negatively," she said. "I want people coming and going. It's very important for the businesses to get [Seventh Avenue] to a two-way street."

Traffic expert Brian Ketcham said there is nothing academic about this debate. "Commercial streets work a hell of a lot better when they're two-way streets and everyone knows that," he said, adding that people driving around looking for a business need to be able to slow down to find it, and need to be able to park nearby.

But business owners are not the only ones worried about the possible problems. Sixth Avenue residents were also concerned.

"The traffic will go faster, but it will look less friendly," said resident Maria Gao. "It's a way to move cars through the neighborhood, but we don't want the neighborhood to be like a highway," she added.

"We want the neighborhood to be more pedestrian-friendly, not give cars an excuse to speed."

— with Michael Gardina and Josh Saul

## VOX POP

What do Park Slopers think about the Department of Transportation's "radical" new plan to convert Sixth and Seventh avenues into one-way thoroughfares? We hit the streets to find out.

— Interviews and photos by Josh Saul



The lady I work for has me park her car for her and I have to drive and circle around for almost an hour to find a spot. It's crazy.  
— Renee Olan



The idea freaks me out because my kids are getting into skateboarding, and on one-way streets people are just whipping around corners.  
— Jeremy Sarkissian



I think it's a good idea, because they could put in a bike lane.  
— Blake Hulben



I would be for the plan if it was combined with other traffic-calming measures.  
— Mark Shames



I don't like it because I live on Sixth and I like being able to come home from either direction.  
— Christina Benevento

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

March 10, 2007

# Bard brawl

GO Brooklyn's guide to the boro's bounty of Shakespeare

The Brooklyn Paper

**T**he guy's been dead for almost 400 years, but he certainly hasn't gotten much rest.

It would seem that each of the 38 plays that William Shakespeare wrote is being performed in Brooklyn this season, and sometimes by more than one company. If we keep going at this rate, there will be no shrews left to tame by the time summer rolls around.

GO Brooklyn sorted through the heaps of Hamlets to find the most worthwhile productions in the borough. If you're looking for something a little different, check out these performances, they're sure to give you the Shakes.

## Brooklyn Academy of Music

This spring, two troupes known for their rambunctious productions return to show everyone how to do Shakespeare right: Director Edward Hall brings his all-male "Taming of the Shrew" and "Twelfth Night" to BAM this month, and Declan Donnellan's



widely praised Check by Jowl company brings its stylish interpretation of the Bard's problematic late romance "Cymbeline" to the Harvey in May. Staging the plays with men playing all the roles — which, we're constantly told, was how it was done in Shakespeare's time — has

ceased being a gimmick, and in Hall's hands both comedies are revitalized, their gender-bending antics underlining their humanity. "In 'Twelfth Night,'" said BAM's Executive Producer Joseph Mello, "the relationship of a man playing a woman playing a man is done with such sensitivity that it becomes a complex emotional and psychological journey."

Declan Donnellan and Check by Jowl are in their element with "Cymbeline," according to Mello: "One of the most convoluted Shakespearean plots will be unraveled with clarity and commitment, along with vivid, colorful performances."

"The Taming of the Shrew" and "Twelfth Night" are performed in repertory March 17 - April 1, and "Cymbeline" is performed May 2 - 12 at the BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene). Tickets are \$25 through \$65. For information call (718) 636-4100 or visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

— Kevin Filipski

## Kings County Shakespeare Company

Nobody ever sued Shakespeare for sexual harassment, but that doesn't mean he's not in for a working over. If you've ever found yourself offended by the sexist nature of his work, sweet revenge is finally yours.

Kings County Shakespeare Company has modernized "The Taming of the Shrew," christened as "Ruff Love or What You Will," and turned one of the Bard's most popular comedies into a "gender-friendly" performance.



A what? "The Taming of the Shrew" breaks the box office, but every time I've gone to see it, I've talked to women and some men who say it's a sexist play and they'll never see it again," said Deborah Wright Houston, artistic director. "Some thought the last speech [referring to women as weak and subordinate] was too harsh."

Houston claims that she has cut the misogyny out of the show, which is now down to a svelte two hours.

"I rewrote the speech in iambic pentameter — as close to the original language as possible, taking out the harsh language to

ward women," she said. She also rewrote the father, Baptista, as Kate and Bianca's mother.

The original play may not be as misogynistic as it appears on the surface, however. "I think perhaps Shakespeare was trying to hold a mirror up to the world and say, 'This is the way things are.' Everyone has his place in the world. Men have their place, women have theirs. The play is about the relationship between men and women and the need for honesty."

"Ruff Love or What You Will" will be performed at The Great Room at A.R.T./N.Y. (138 S. Oxford St. between South Portland and Cumberland streets in Fort Greene) from March 8-19. \$18. For information, call (718) 398-0546 or visit [www.kingscounty-shakespeare.org](http://www.kingscounty-shakespeare.org).

— Rob M. Errera

## The Wooster Group

The painfully avant-garde drama club The Wooster Group has mounted its very own "Hamlet" at DUMBO's culture emporium, St. Ann's Warehouse. The month-long run takes a fresh sniff of what's rotten in Denmark — starting from impressions that a film of Richard Burton's 1964 performance left on the company.

"The Wooster Group has done a number of shows dealing with the 'royals,' and always with wit and originality," said St. Ann's Artistic Director Susan Feldman. "They find a



truth by way of deconstruction — in a way reversing the subconscious and conscious mind so that, through ingenious sound design, movement and, often, video 'character making,' an internal reality is revealed. They are always fascinating and profound."

This version of "Hamlet" has traveled to Barcelona, Paris and Berlin, hitting Brooklyn before its final stop at Shakespeare Mecca the Public Theater in October.

The Wooster Group's "Hamlet" will be performed at St. Ann's Warehouse (38 Water St. at Dock Street in DUMBO) through March 25. Tickets are \$27.50 — \$37.50. For information call (718) 254-8779 or visit [www.stannwarehouse.org](http://www.stannwarehouse.org). — Adam Rathe

## Brooklyn Repertory Shakespeare Company



"We'll be serving beer and popcorn. We want to go for that ballpark-style entertainment," director Neal Zupancic told us. Beginning March 12, Brooklyn Rep will kick off "Monday Night Shakespeare" with an eight-week run of "Cymbeline" at Park Slope's spooky arts spot, the Brooklyn Lyceum.

"The thing about 'Cymbeline' is that it's considered to be a sort of self-parody play," said Zupancic. "We thought it would be fun to do."

One scene, which demonstrates Shakespeare's ability to poke fun at himself, is Zupancic's favorite: "The female lead wakes up from a sleep and finds a body and thinks it's her husband, but it's just someone who was beheaded wearing her husband's clothing," he says, referring to this obvious parody of "Romeo and Juliet."

Zupancic hopes the performances will reach a larger audience than usual. "In Shakespeare's time, any person of any class would go see [his shows]. Now it's seen as an academic thing."

Monday Night Shakespeare will be performed at the Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope) on Mondays at 8 pm, March 12 - April 30. Tickets \$20 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors. For information call (866) 469-2687. — Maggie Serota

## CINEMA

# Kiddie Cannes

Wild beasts are taking over the Brooklyn Academy of Music — and we're not just talking about the films! Join a supernatural seceded, a lively bunch of pencils and a fervent frog for the ninth annual "BAMkid's Film Festival" this weekend, where local youngsters get a glimpse of independent film.

This two-day festival will screen more than 40 feature films and shorts, including submissions from France, Israel and Germany. Not to worry, actors read the subtitles out loud so that you — and your little ones — don't have to.

Of local interest, one of the films is by Mo Willems, the Park Sloper behind "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus" and "Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale" (ask your kids). This year, Willems turned the later book into a short. "Cool cartoons, Saturday morning and Brooklyn. What more could you really ask for?" he said.

In addition to the films, there will be a multimedia presentation by Gustaf Yellowgold, a golden Sun alien who's trekking to Brooklyn from his quaint Midwestern cottage. Mr. Yellowgold will be accompanied by animated illustrations and original vocals by singer-songwriter Morgan Taylor. These Saturday morning cartoons are entertaining for all ages — just make sure to leave your pajamas at home.

BAMkids Film Festival, March 10-11. Brooklyn Academy of Music, 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene. Tickets are \$7 — \$10. For information call (718) 636-4129 or visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org). — Sarah McCormick

## DINING

# Gravy train

This weekend, "The L To The Mmmmm Train: Hipster Food, Puebla York & Wurst" will rumble through the borough, stopping along the way to sample some of the best ethnic eats in Brooklyn. The culinary tour de force is sponsored by the Transit Museum and hosted by "gustatory sherpa" Todd Coleman, food editor at Saver.

Using the train line as the narrative, Coleman's tour will amble from Williamsburg to Bushwick and Ridgewood, stopping at places like a Sicilian dolceria whose cannolis have plied Brooklynites since the 1930s, and La Tortilleria Mexicana. Los Hermanos, a Mexican shop whose creamy "totes" and "antojitos" are warm enough to keep you toasty until June.

Mindful of the borough's changing landscape, Coleman tempers a visit to Von Westernhagen, a German operation since the 1960s, with a stop at hipster emporium, the Bedford Cheese Shop.

"I've curated the tour to include places I think are special. It might involve shopping, meeting the owner or seeing a demonstration," said Coleman. But how to make it through the day with stomach lining and starting weight in tact? "Face yourself," he says.

"The L to the Mmmmm Train: Hipster Food, Puebla York & Wurst" will start at 11 am on March 10. Tickets are \$45, \$40 for Museum members. For information call (718) 694-1867. — Jordana Rothman

## CINEMA

# Whose reality?

"Filming was only supposed to last six months," said Michael Nigro (pictured), the Carroll Gardens resident who directed "American Cannibal." As fate would have it though, Nigro and his partner, Park Sloper Perry Grebin, were sucked into the world of reality TV for close to two years.

The film follows powerhouse reality-TV veterans Gil Ripley and Dave Roberts as they attempt to produce a morally bankrupt and ill-fated reality show titled "American Cannibal." Along the way, characters like Kevin Blatt, the profligate behind the infamous Paris Hilton sex tape, drop in to up the sleaze factor while crazed wannabe contestants and slimy D-list celebrities swarm around the production.

"A train wreck," was Grebin's understated way of describing the scene.

"The movie raises so many disgusting issues," Grebin added. "It points the finger at all of us as if to say 'Where is your shame? Why aren't you turning off the TV?'" And, apparently, leading to the movies.

"American Cannibal" opens on March 16 at theaters nationwide. For information call (212) 924-3363 or visit [www.americancannibal.com](http://www.americancannibal.com). — Maggie Serota

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# BROOKLYN

## Neighborhood Dining Guide

### This week: BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

#### Andy's

128 Montague St. at Henry Street, (718) 237-8899 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$7-\$15.

This popular Chinese restaurant serves many varieties of chicken, vegetable and seafood dishes. Special Andy's creations include grilled salmon with garlic sauce and sliced duck with young ginger root. Spicy Hunan and Szechuan dishes abound, like chicken Hunan style and Mongolian beef. The attentive waitstaff is constantly at your elbow filling your water glass or providing steaming pots of tea.

#### Caffe Buon Gusto

151 Montague St. at Henry Street, (718) 624-3838 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9.95-\$16.95.

What makes Caffe Buon Gusto's classic Italian fare so unique is the everything-from-scratch approach of chef-owner Nando Ghorchini. All pastas, sauces and desserts are made here. The patrons' favorites are homemade focaccia and the award-winning tiramisu. "The tiramisu is to die for," said manager Roy Bianchi. "Even Italians say it's the best they ever had." The wine menu, which includes many Italian wines, also receives compliments. The decade-old restaurant offers a full bar and a seasonal streetside cafe. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Brunch is served on weekends, from 11 am to 4 pm. A three-course, \$20.00 pre-fixe menu is available daily.

#### Chipotle Mexican Grill

185 Montague St. at Clinton Street, (718) 243-9109, www.chipotle.com (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6.45-\$7.32.

Chipotle's outpost of the popular Chipotle Mexican Grill chain, which opened in late 2004, serves nothing but tortillas and the things that go inside tortillas, but you can have them in any combination you can imagine. The menu is small, but the servings are not, and Chipotle puts an emphasis on quality ingredients and service. Chipotle's guacamole is made fresh throughout the day, there's a choice between classic refried beans and vegetarian black beans; the chicken, beef and pork are marinated in a spicy adobo sauce infused with smoky chipotle peppers; and even the rice is special, flavored with cilantro and lime. The tacos come in three (soft, flour) or four (crispy, corn). The huge, customized Q-cosue burrito, made right before your eyes, are overfilled with your choice of meats and/or vegetables, rice, beans and three kinds of salsas. There is even a light burrito with sautéed green peppers and onions. And don't forget the \$4 margaritas! Or, choose from the selection of imported and domestic beers. Open daily 11 am to 10 pm.

#### Heights Cafe

84 Montague St. at Hicks Street, (718) 625-5555, www.heightscafe.com (AmEx) Entrees: \$8.95-\$19.95.

Heights Cafe co-owner Greg Markman claims he and his partner, Joe Secondino have "the largest outdoor cafe in Brooklyn Heights." The corner restaurant with cherry wood tables and glass doors — designed by award-winning architect Larry Boppre — has a casual, California feel. Markman recommends the steamed mussels appetizer flavored with garlic, lemongrass, cilantro and coconut milk. Another popular starter, says Markman, is the warm spinach artichoke dip served with tricolor corn tortilla chips. The cafe offers daily seafood specials. The crab cakes entree is served with a smoked green chili remoulade sauce, pickled vegetable salad and crisp plantain cake. If you're not a fan of seafood, do not fret: the pan-roasted chicken that comes with a corn-shitake-pearl onion sauce, potato puree and sautéed spinach is just one of many non-fish options. For dessert, try the Mississippi mud pie or the caramelized banana Napoleon. Weekend brunch offered. Open for lunch and dinner daily.

#### La Traviata

(Two locations) 139 Montague St. at Henry Street, (718) 858-5592; and 161 Joralemon St. at Clinton Street, (718) 858-4100, (AmEx, DC, Visa)

★ = Full review available at [www.BrooklynPaper.com](http://www.BrooklynPaper.com)

Abbreviation Key: AmEx-American Express, DC-Diner's Club, Disc-Discover Card, MC-MasterCard, Visa-Visa Card



Inside Chipotle Mexican Grill on Montague Street.

Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8.25-\$14.95.

This is a great father-and-son act. Ralph Tormaso Jr. and his dad take a personal interest in their popular Brooklyn Heights eatery, and this interest can be seen in every detail — from the marble fountain in the rear patio at the Montague Street location to the friendly staff and ample menu at both establishments. For starters, there's a feast of options like baked clams, spinach ravioli with marinara, grilled portobellos or mussels in white wine sauce. When it comes to entrees, La Traviata offers all of those dishes that have made Italy a gourmand's delight — chicken Marsala, veal Marsala, shrimp scampi, and more. Lighter fare includes thin-crust pizza with an extensive selection of toppings. La Traviata's dessert menu features tiramisu, gelato, chocolate Napoleon, and more. Delivery service via phone or the Web site at the Joralemon Street location. Weather permitting, sidewalk cafe seats are available. Open Sunday through Thursday, from 11 am to midnight; and Friday and Saturday, from 11 am to 1 am.

#### Lichee Nut

162 Montague St. at Clinton Street, downstairs, (718) 522-5565, (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9-\$11.95.

This Brooklyn Heights Chinese restaurant has had several locations, owners and chefs, but throughout these changes, it has maintained the high quality that has kept customers coming back for more than 20 years. Owner Jerry Shen has dedicated himself to keeping the restaurant's fare authentic. Chef Eric Wu cooks in both Szechuan and Cantonese styles and prepares a broad spectrum of dishes. For an appetizer, Shen suggests the popular "steamed little juicy bun" filled with pork, shrimp or vegetable dumplings, the latter served with a hot sesame sauce, or the fried shrimp cake. The house special is a generous plate of jumbo shrimp sautéed with Chinese vegetables and lichee nuts — which, by the way, are NOT nuts at all, but rather large seeds containing sweet and succulent fruit. Another specialty is the mixed vegetables with bean vermicelli, served with a choice of "cashu" (Chinese BBQ sauce) or brown sauce. Finish your meal with a dish of pistachio ice cream. Open Monday through Sunday for lunch and dinner, and Sundays from 1 pm to 10 pm.

#### Park Plaza

220 Cadman Plaza West at Pineapple Walk (off Clark Street), (718) 596-9900 (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9-\$20.

For 22 years this diner-style family restaurant has offered breakfast, lunch and dinner, seven days a week, 364 days a year. (They take Christmas Day off.) Locals return to the comfortable, wood-paneled dining room for the famous half-pound burgers, made with a "special secret seasoning" according to manager Nick, and prepared with your choice of 15 different toppings. The prix fixe brunch served from 10 am to 3 pm on weekends is actually two specials in one. If you're in the mood for breakfast, you can choose from among their omelets, pancakes, waffles, served with assorted Danish, a brunch cocktail, and coffee or tea for \$9.95. Hungry for heartier fare? The lunch brunch special comes with soup or salad, potato, vegetable, entree, coffee or tea and dessert for \$13.95. Park Plaza has a full bakery on the premises and offers 80 different desserts, including a variety of cheesecakes. Delivery available.

Editor's note: These are a sampling of restaurants in the neighborhood. The list rotates, and it is not comprehensive. For more restaurants, go to [www.brooklynpaper.com](http://www.brooklynpaper.com) on the Web. If your restaurant is not listed and you would like it to be, please contact GO Brooklyn Editor Lisa Curtis via e-mail at [Curtis@brooklynpaper.com](mailto:Curtis@brooklynpaper.com).

# High Noon Na

Beyond basic barbeque, Noo Na brings sophisticated Korean cuisine to Prospect Heights

By Tina Barry  
For The Brooklyn Paper

Look past the giant glass windows into the modern dining room of Noo Na on Vanderbilt Avenue and you'll know you're entering the new age of Korean restaurants. This Prospect Heights eatery is nothing like the smoky dens of Korea Town in the garment district.

The owners of Noo Na, which opened in September, are Cathy Palm and Anatoly Dubinsky, who recognize Vanderbilt Avenue as fertile ground for new eateries. Palm owns Le Gamini, a French bistro across the avenue from Noo Na, which is a term of endearment a Korean boy uses for his older

brother. Dubinsky is the proprietor of Soda Bar, a casual bar-eatery, also on the avenue.

The partners have fashioned a modern lounge and eatery with all the accoutrements that implies: long communal tables near the front of the large space and private tables near the back. Big red lanterns that hang above the seating cast a dark, moody glow, and in the back of the high-ceilinged room, there's a bar where one can procure a crisp, barely sweet, strongly fruity lichee martini.

Soju (like vodka made from potatoes) and a variety of sake are offered as well.

Despite the look, Noo Na has banished the Korean businessmen of Manhattan in favor of a mostly younger, hipper crowd.

But that has its upsides and downsides. On the downside, there's no live music. Club tunes play loud — not obnoxiously so, but strong enough so that I

had to lean in to hear my friend. That may be acceptable for some diners, but I feel bullied when I'm forced to say "what?" and "excuse me?" all evening.

On the upside, there is none of the overwhelming barbeque smoke at Noo Na, where the cooking is done in the kitchen, not on grills built into the tables. And the heat of the dishes that one finds in traditional Korean establishments has been tamed for American palates. Some diners may prefer Kim's subtler spicing, others may find the cooking lacks drama. Regardless, it's possible to have a fine meal at the restaurant — but expect glitches along the way.

The "ban chuan" changes each evening. Always available among chef

Victor Kim's three nightly offerings is "kim chee," the highly spiced marinated cabbage that is Korea's national dish. His version relies less on the heat of chilies and focuses more on

fresh ginger and garlic to give the salad a kick. "Pa jun" the pan-fried pancake of small pizza studded with mushrooms, and the "bin dae tsk," mini pancakes made of mung beans, are disappointing. Both dishes are excessively greasy and bland.

It is surprising when that underwhelming prelude is followed with a stew as complexly spiced as the "soon dog boo." The deep orange mix is served in a small iron pot, so hot that hand waves radiated from its surface. Inside the briny blend are sweet baby shrimp, squid and oysters given an intense jolt from hot red pepper. Silky squares of tofu, slices of earthy shitake mushrooms and soft cubes of

bacon are tucked into the pork belly. The deep orange mix is served in a small iron pot, so hot that hand waves radiated from its surface. Inside the briny blend are sweet baby shrimp, squid and oysters given an intense jolt from hot red pepper. Silky squares of tofu, slices of earthy shitake mushrooms and soft cubes of



Super bowl: Noo Na's "dol sot bi bim bab" has pork, rice, vegetables and a fried egg all together in a hot stone pot.

zucchini soften the pepper's bite. This stew is supposed to cure hangovers (though that may merely be an old wives' tale).

Served in a steaming hot stone bowl, the "dol sot bi bim bab," a mix of delicately sweet and tender strips of pork, slices of shitake mushrooms, daikon, slivers of crisp carrots and bean sprouts, are surrounded with a layer of rice that becomes crisp as it sits in the pot (called a "dolsot"). The dish has a mild yet bland, vaguely sweet and sour seasoning that intensifies when it's stirred together with a soft fried egg and some of the "gochujang," a zesty, salty chili paste. The soft and firm textures, the brittle yet tender cubes of rice, and the sweetness of the pork make fine eating.

The barbecue, or "bul go gi," is subtly smoky, faintly sweet and made sharp with the addition of chopped scallions and onions. The thin slices of

bacon are tucked into the pork belly. The deep orange mix is served in a small iron pot, so hot that hand waves radiated from its surface. Inside the briny blend are sweet baby shrimp, squid and oysters given an intense jolt from hot red pepper. Silky squares of tofu, slices of earthy shitake mushrooms and soft cubes of

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# So Davine

"We want to share our knowledge, our passion and our love for wine with our favorite little city in the world," said Alyssa and Jennifer Becker, the sisters who own Donna da Vine.

The wine bar and eatery, which opened in December, is named after their late mother Donna who passed her love for the vintage onto her daughters. The duo grew up in Kensington, but now live nearby in Boerum Hill, so they have an insiders' view of our "little city."

"We specialize in small producers, not the kind of bottles you'd find in everyday retail shops," said Alyssa,

who spent years traveling the world and working in vineyards in Italy and Australia.

In the comfortable 45-seat room, tucked into the historic B&O building, century rowhouse on Atlantic Avenue, you can try 35 wines by the bottle and glasses (they hope to increase that number to 50 soon). Even evenings "Flights" allow sippers to sample three tastes — there's the "ABC: Anything but Chardonnay" or "Hail Me a Cab" — that show off the sisters' favorite grapes three different ways, all of them bringing out the best qualities of each

wine type.

To complement the wine, chef Kristyn Samok offers small, shareable plates.

"Everything — even the pickles — are house-made," said Alyssa.

The "Davine tastes," include artisanal cheeses, prosciutto and olives. "Davine bites" feature salads and several savory paninis. For heartier appetites, there's the "Quattro Formaggi mac-a-cheese," a lush mix of Gorgonzola, Pecorino Romano, Parmesan and Fontina. There are even port wines and "Da Vine chocolates" to savor.

Donna da Vine (378 Atlantic Ave. between Hoyt and Bond streets in Boerum Hill) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Dishes: \$5-\$11. The bar is open for drinks and small bites Tuesday through Sunday evenings and begins serving at noon on Sunday. Closed Monday. Check their Web site for the schedule of 90-minute introductory classes on wine.

Subway: F to Bergen Street; 2, 3, 4, 5, N and R to Atlantic Avenue/Pacific Street. For information call (718) 643-2250 or visit [www.donnadavine.com](http://www.donnadavine.com).

— Tina Barry

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# Shear genius

'Scissorhands' ballet, snipped of lines, is definitely cutting edge

By Kevin Filipksi  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Edward Scissorhands" was strange enough the first time around.

Now, with Matthew Bourne's wordless dance production of the 1990 tear-jerking fairy tale, things have gotten even weirder.

As one of Burton's best-loved films, "Scissorhands" is sure to attract attention — but so do car crashes.

Having mounted a rigorous marketing regimen, the Brooklyn Academy of Music hopes that Bourne's re-imagining of Tim Burton's film, on stage at the Howard Gilman Opera

House from March 14-31, will garner the same kind of acclaim that met earlier runs in London and Los Angeles.

Bourne is best known for his singular version of "Swan Lake," which made it to Broadway a few seasons back, and he's currently represented on the Great White Way with his choreography for "Mary Poppins."

He thinks "Edward Scissorhands" is the perfect movie to turn into a staged dance. "I loved the message in the movie," Bourne told GO

## DANCE

"Edward Scissorhands" at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene), March 14-31. Tickets are \$30-\$10. A BAM dialogue with Matthew Bourne will be held March 15 at 6 pm at the BAM Rose Cinemas; tickets are \$8. For information, call (718) 636-4100 or visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

Brooklyn. "[It was] about learning to see inside people and not judge them by their outward appearance."

In the movie version, Vincent Price played an eccentric inventor who created Edward (Johnny Depp) to replace his dead son. The old man died before finishing his work, so Edward was left alone with gigantic cutting shears for hands. He was welcomed into a small, picket-fence community thanks to his topiary and hair-cutting skills, and soon fell in love with the daughter (Winona Ryder) of the family that took him in. But — you knew it was coming — the fact that Edward was "different" soon became a matter of life and death.

Adapting this fantastical tale from the movies to the dance stage is unusual to say the least; the playwright Caroline Thompson — who worked on the adaptation with Bourne — had to work outside of the film world, yet instinctively knew what was needed. "It was my first theatrical work, so it was fun to attack



**Hands off:** Sam Archer and Kerry Biggin, two members of the rotating cast in Matthew Bourne's "Edward Scissorhands," which will be at the Brooklyn Academy of Music from March 14 through 31.

the problems that the stage presents," said Thompson, who also wrote the scripts for Burton's animatronic fantasies, "The Nightmare Before Christmas" and "Corpse Bride." "This required a fresh approach, and my job was to encourage Matthew to not be overly respectful to the material. We completely reimagined the tale through its storyline. My role was to ask, 'How does that serve this emotional story?'"

Thompson doesn't think it so far-fetched that a strange fairy-tale movie has been transformed into a ballet with a mute title character — after all, Edward only said 196 words in the movie anyway.

"At his core, he's in many ways a silent character, so for me, watching Matt adapting it is like watching a Charlie Chaplin movie," she said. "In any case, it's not so farfetched a marriage: I based Edward on a dog I once had who wanted

you over there at The Brooklyn Paper?" Never mind what I told him, but suffice it to say, my answer was slung back in my face so many times, it actually started to sting for real.

When they finally brought me onstage for a "date" with

Laura, I was powerless to resist her diabolical machinations. Before I knew it, I was down on one knee, proposing marriage. Maybe it was the guilt I felt because of breaking the poor girl's unicorn, the centerpiece of her collection of

glass figurines. Maybe I just felt sorry for her because she seemed so pathetically unlovable. In any case, the actors had caught me in their web, and there was nothing I could do. I was one of them. And it felt like ... home.

## Wind in the sales?

If you feel like you've been hit over the head with advertising for the BAM's "Edward Scissorhands," it's no fantasy. "This is the largest television campaign we've done, and the largest overall campaign in a number of years," Stephen Litterer, BAM's Senior Manager of Electronic Marketing, said this week. BAM has spent "hundreds of thousands of dollars" to place ads with Time Warner Cable and Cablevision on Long Island. "It's amazing to see the bump in sales from when the television ads start showing," Litterer said.

But, he added, the huge ad buy "was all part of the initial marketing plan. We intended it to be a blitz."

Additionally, BAM has launched a "much larger than usual" direct mail campaign and does much more online marketing. Not only has BAM covered all its bases, it's covered itself: The BAM building, on Lafayette Avenue, is now swaddled in a large "Scissorhands" banner.

The cultural arts Mecca would not reveal how many tickets it has sold to the Matthew Bourne's "Edward Scissorhands" — the popular Johnny Depp film — but Litterer rejected the rumors that sales are lagging.

"We're really happy with how things are shaping up," he said.

—Adam Rathe

## GLASS...

Continued from page 1

The production makes liberal use of "bouffon," a kind of clowning that originated among Renaissance French society's outcasts — "ugly" people like lepers, prostitutes and heretics, many of whom were banished from their villages. A notable exception was made during holiday festivals, when the bouffons were expected to entertain society's elite. During these performances, the bouffon's chief aim was to mock and deride the lion as much as possible, using satirical means that would, on any other day, likely get them killed.

Knowing this when I arrived at the Brick Theater, a former auto body shop in the heart of Williamsburg, I had no doubt I was in the right place. There, on the sparse stage in front of me, were the very freaks I had been expecting: Tom, lurchbacked and decked out in a tube top, like Quasimodo ready for a night on the town; Amanda, with watermelon-sized bosoms and more-than-ample hips squeezed into hot pink stretch pants; and pallid, stringy-haired Laura, sickly in her tattered hospital gown (and, initially, pants underneath which, when she saw I'd brought along a photographer, she promptly removed to display her signature diaper — oh, these vain, self-conscious actresses!).

The actors playing these beasts — Lynn Berg, Aimee German, and Audrey Crabtree, respectively — took a break from the scene they were rehearsing (synchronizing obscene hand gestures with director Eric Davis) to introduce themselves.

The production follows the same story arc as the original, despite the glaring stylistic differences. In fact, as the story played out, it became quite apparent why bouffon and this

particular play make such a good match. The Wingfields, even in the original, were outcasts and freaks — losers, if you will.

Amanda, whose husband has long since left for reasons that don't need much explanation, clings pathetically to a mythologized youth that includes record numbers of gentleman callers. Tom, who shares many characteristics in common with a young Tennessee Williams (both are writers working menial jobs in a factory), sneaks out at night and goes to "the theater," coded language for any manner of perverted behavior, whether it be binge drinking, illicit drug use, or depraved sexual acts. And Laura — or "Blue Roses" as she fondly remembers Jim

## THEATER

"Bouffon Glass Menagerie" will run at the Brick Theater (575 Metropolitan Ave. between Lorimer Street and Union Avenue in Williamsburg) through March 26. Tickets are \$10. For information, call (212) 352-3101 or visit [www.bouffonglassmenagerie.com](http://www.bouffonglassmenagerie.com).

calling her because of a high school pleurisy outbreak — epitomizes the cruelty of society's judging eye; it's not her fault she's crippled and painfully shy (and in this version, truly grotesque), but what man in his right mind would choose to marry her of his own free will?

In this vein, at each performance of "Bouffon Glass Menagerie," a different — um, lucky? — guy is plucked from the audience to be poked, prodded and perverted in playing the role of Jim, the gentleman caller. "Tom, Amanda and Laura" reads a disclaimer on the show's Web site, "claim no responsibility for hurt feelings or offended sentiments."

Over the course of the run-through, I was picked on mercilessly. At one point, I was coerced into awarding and mutually unsatisfying simulated phone sex with Amanda. Later, I was Tom's drinking buddy and the butt of his jokes — after I answered his question of "How much they pay

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Here's one more good reason to love Spanish wines! There is just so much going on in your glass! A rich, heady bouquet of strawberries, raspberries, cedar and spices, with flavors of black mulberry, red cherry and a touch of vanilla. Beautifully balanced and a great value!

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### Image du Sud, Côtes du Rhône

This little treasure is a "second label" for the remarkable wine maker André Brunel, one of the superstars of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, whose famous wines sell for hundreds of dollars per bottle! Made from a 50/50 blend of Grenache and Syrah, this ruby red/violet wine has an abundance of mouth-filling flavors, with layers of cherry, smoky figs and blackberries, all beautifully balanced.

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**\$9.49**

**Tomero, Torrontes**  
Torrontes is Argentina's great white wine, and one sip of this outstanding example will show you why I think that it's one of the world's great wines! Torrontes is a descendant of Malvasia, and has kept much of the mouth-watering aromas of that ancient grape. The rich, ripe nose of honeysuckle blossoms, lychees and white pears is a hallmark of Torrontes! Now, you might expect a wine with that much fruit to be sweet, but this wine is dry! The lush, richly fruited flavors makes this one of the most refreshing and thirst quenching wines around, as well as a perfect match with spicy Cajun, Thai and Indian cooking.  
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## Marty goes on record on Barclays

**Editor's note:** When Bruce Ratner announced he had sold naming rights on his Nets arena to slavery-linked Barclays bank, we asked Borough President Markowitz for his view of the deal. At the time, he chose not to comment.

Since then, other elected officials — some op-

ponents of Atlantic Yards, others, like Markowitz, supporters — have condemned the Barclays deal. Others have demanded that the bank put up more than the \$2.5 million it pledged to repair basketball courts around the borough.

Until now, Markowitz was silent. But questions

about his view of the deal persisted.

Finally, a constituent sent the Beep a letter demanding that he condemn the Ratner-Barclays deal. Markowitz's response was nuanced. Rather than depict it one way or the other, we wanted to let the Borough President speak for himself:

Dear [name withheld],

I agree that faithful study of the past is truly the only way to ensure that we, as human beings, progress wisely. And, just as you do, I deplore any and all violations of human rights, now and at any time in the past. However, when we look from a histor-

ical perspective, it is a fact of life that many institutions with long histories, from banks to auto manufacturers to multi-national conglomerates, have had dealings at some point in their histories that run counter to the values of all who hold human rights dear.

Therefore, and I think you'll concur,

when the public and private sector partner for the benefit of city residents, our duty must be vigilant in determining a company's record and most importantly [sic], its intentions. In this case, I must tell you, I am confident that a partnership with Barclays will be good for Brooklyn...

It is my hope — and it will be our goal — for Barclays to contribute even more in Brooklyn by becoming a full philanthropic partner, perhaps opening a regional headquarters here, and certainly providing ongoing financial support.

Sincerely, (Signed) **Marty Markowitz**



## Hungry Beep

Borough President Markowitz stretched his stomach this week — but for a good cause, Jamie! — to promote "Dine in Brooklyn" week. From March 19-30, Brooklynites can engorge themselves on three-course meals at some of the borough's priciest restaurants for \$21.12 (the price was chosen because Brooklyn ZIP codes begin with 112). About 30 restaurants are participating.

— **Dana Rubenstein**

# Brooklyn and Vienna: Perfect together



Borough President Markowitz presents Vienna's deputy mayor, Renate Brauner, with a mini Brooklyn Bridge.

By **Gersh Kuntzman**

The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn and Vienna's Leopoldstadt district have a lot in common: Jews, high-fat foods and leaders with an eye on the future.

And now, these two "outer" boroughs are forever joined, thanks to a "district partnership" inked this week by Borough President Markowitz and Vienna Deputy Mayor Renate Brauner.

Markowitz took a page from President John F. Kennedy and pronounced himself "Ich bin ein Wiener" — "I am a citizen of Vienna" — though he pronounced it with a Brooklyn, not German, accent. (See chart.)

He gave Brauner, a rising star in Viennese politics, a model of the Brooklyn Bridge. In exchange, Brauner gave Markowitz, who believes he is a rising star in New York politics, a crystal statuette of Vienna's civic symbol and a box of Viennese chocolates.

## Marty: I am a wiener!

Borough President Markowitz welcomed his counterpart from Vienna, Deputy Mayor Renate Brauner, to Borough Hall this week — and the City Hall-focused Beep took a page from President Kennedy when he declared, "Ich bin ein Wiener." Here's how MM and JFK match up in our first-ever, Presidential Snackdown:

— **The Brooklyn Paper**

Marty Markowitz	President	John F. Kennedy
Brooklyn, March 6, 2007	Place, date of speech	West Berlin, June 26, 1963
"Ich bin ein Wiener" ("I am a citizen of Vienna")	Historic line	"Ich bin ein Berliner" ("I am a citizen of Berlin")
"I am a Viennese-style hot dog"	Often wrongly translated as	"I am a jelly-filled doughnut."
"Don't tell my wife about the chocolate!"	Of-forgotten secondary line	"Freedom is indivisible, and where one man is enslaved, all are not free."
To cement a bond between Brooklyn and one of Vienna's neighborhoods.	Purpose of speech	To show U.S. support for West Berlin after the Reds built the Berlin Wall.

The dieting Markowitz paused before accepting the sweets — and then dragged a Brooklyn Paper reporter into the fray.

"Look," he said, "you can write whatever you want about Atlantic Yards, but don't report that I took the chocolate. This is personal. Jamie [Markowitz's wife] will kill me."

A contingent of Brooklyn Jewish leaders were also on hand to welcome Brauner. Leopoldstadt, which, like Brooklyn, is on the right bank of the city's main river, was the center of Viennese Jewish life at the time of the Holocaust.

As part of the partnership deal, Brauner invited Markowitz on a fact-finding mission to Vienna, but the Beep demurred, again citing a Brooklyn Paper reporter.

We have very strong ethics rules here, which is a good thing, or else The Brooklyn Paper would call it a junket!" he said.

## MARTY'S SPENDING...

Continued from page 1

dent Adolfo Carrion in the spending race.

In 2006, Markowitz paid \$32,105 to Lake Research Partners, a prestigious national polling firm that has helped shepherd Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano, Louisiana Senator Mary Landrieu, and Arkansas Senator Blanche Lincoln to power; \$64,836 to a campaign consultant, Izabella Vais; and thousands of dollars on office space in an undisclosed Brooklyn location.

Bob Meadow, a partner at Lake Research who has worked with Markowitz for years, brushed off the recent expenditures on polling as classic Markowitz behavior.

"Marty wants to be the best borough president he can be," said Meadow. "That's what he's lived for."

Meadow couldn't elaborate on what specific polling Markowitz had requested, but he did say that \$32,000 "typically buys a 600- or 800-person poll [that] explores the political landscape for re-election."

Except, Meadow was reminding, term limits forbid

Markowitz from running for re-election.

That's when Meadow suggested that running for a city-wide office would not be out of the question.

"Marty is a very enthusiastic and compelling leader, and New York has always been responsive to people who have strong personalities," said Meadow. "I'm sure the people outside of Brooklyn would respond to him with the same enthusiasm as people in Brooklyn."

Such vague implications are all that's forthcoming from the unusually tight-lipped Beep.

During his appearance on NY1, host Dominic Carter virtually begged Markowitz to announce his candidacy, but Markowitz demurred, although he did entertain some interesting hypothetical scenarios.

"[Mayor Bloomberg's] the wealthiest man that's ever been mayor," said Markowitz.

"Should I win, I'll be the lowest-income mayor New York City has ever had. By the way, we're both born Feb. 14... although he's three years older than me. But I'm shorter than him, by the way. And chubbier."

If Markowitz makes the run,

he'll be jogging in a crowded field, including Thompson, Carrion, Council Speaker Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan) and Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-Sheepshead Bay), who ran for mayor last time.

Indeed, Markowitz's citywide prospects got less-than-glowing reviews from Hank Sheinkopf, a political consultant.

"It will be tough, and you'll have a lot of competent people in the race for Mayor," said Sheinkopf. "Markowitz has done well in Brooklyn, but Brooklyn is not the entire city... and not having a citywide platform creates some problems."

## He's running — for something

Borough President Markowitz is running for a major office when term limits kick in in 2009 — but he's been coy about what citywide post he'll seek. Our investigation reveals that he's certainly thinking big — bigger in some ways than even some better-funded, but equally ambitious, mayoral opponents.

Source: NYC Campaign Finance Board

2009 Candidate	Total spent so far	On consultants	On fundraising	On polling
Borough President Markowitz	\$197,072	\$63,099	\$11,724	\$32,105
Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion (D)	\$250,957	\$26,166	\$77,401	\$0
Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum (D)	\$66,056	\$10,200	\$27,113	\$0
Council Speaker Chris Quinn (D-Manhattan)	\$21,343	\$0	\$130	\$0
City Comptroller William Thompson (D)	\$326,304	\$205,676	\$57,335	\$0

## Eagle boss among bizmen giving Marty the max: \$4,950

The Brooklyn Paper

Borough President Markowitz may not be running for mayor officially, but he has pulled in \$259,296 in his undeclared candidacy in an election that's still two years away.

And at least 83 people have contributed the "undeclared" Markowitz, giving the Beep a big black check.

The donors include big-name developers like Shaya Boyemgreen and Joseph Sitt, plus Markowitz's own appointee to the Planning Commission, Dolly "Recuse Me" Williams.

We called up some of Markowitz's bankrollers to find out why they'd give money to a guy who isn't officially running for anything.

**Dozier Hasty, publisher, Brooklyn Daily Eagle**, gave \$4,950 on Dec. 25, 2006. "I don't know what he's planning to do. I just think he's done some great stuff for the borough, and I'm supporting him for just about any office he wants."

"I don't think [giving Marty money] is any different than blasting or supporting him in print. I don't see

any conflict [of interest]."

**Michael Halkias, caterer, Grand Prospect Hall**, gave \$1,000 in May 2006. "I give money to schools, hospitals, to a lot of people..."

"I suppose I would vote for Markowitz for mayor. But Grand Prospect Hall has nothing to benefit from Marty. I don't do any business with Borough Hall."

**Nicholas Lembo, Monadnock Construction**, gave \$4,950 in October 2006. "I like Marty. I think he's been very good for Brooklyn. I think he'd be good for the city..."

He called him to ask a question, and he told me that he was thinking about running for mayor [so I gave]."

**Matthew Pincik, owner, Pinst-**

**chik Hardware**, gave \$4,950 in February 2006. "I saw a 'Marty for Mayor' station at his Chinese New Year celebration. It's certainly a possibility he will run... Marty's a pretty charismatic person [and] I just believe in supporting people... Is this on the record or off the record? [On.] We certainly believe in Marty."

— **Dana Rubenstein**

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## COLUMNIST GUILTY...

Continued from page 1

The police ran his record and found an outstanding warrant for failing to respond to a citation for speeding while his wife was in labor.

"I just lost track of that citation. That day was pretty crazy," White said.

Better to face the wrath of the law than a pregnant woman any day.

When they ran my record, I didn't have as good of an excuse. My warrant was from a citation I received for biking on the sidewalk late one summer night a few years ago. The summons didn't have an amount on it, so I just pleaded not guilty.

Now Lateck and I were sharing a cell with a semi-conscious guy sleeping on the floor and another guy who was describing what heroin tastes like when it was swallowed.

"Bitter, man, real bitter," the guy said. "I wouldn't recommend it."

I didn't dare venture close enough to the bathroom stall to see if the feces smeared on the wall were fresh or just a stain, but judging by the smell, it could have gone either way.

"Good to see they arrest white people, too," Lateck said. I told everyone that I was arrested for littering. And just like in that Arlo Guthrie song, they all moved away from me on the bench.

By the time we were finally marched upstairs to see the judge, nine hours had passed,

and I was in no mood to defend myself against the allegation of littering.

"The state would be satisfied with eight hours of community

service," the prosecutor told the judge. I stood motionless next to my lawyer, my best friend of all of six minutes.

"Or we would be satisfied if

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Mr. Lysiak presents the court with an article on why it is wrong to litter. Your honor, Mr. Lysiak writes for The Brooklyn Paper.

Damn that background-check guy! Damn the power of this newspaper!

But as an alternative to eight

hours wearing an orange jumpsuit along the Shore Parkway, I jumped at it.

So what did I learn from my day in jail? One vital thing, kids: Littering is a horrible, horrible thing to do. Even if you don't see a trash can, and even if the shelf at the 7th Street Station is filled with other cups,

even if you feel that the Department of Sanitation should be doing a better job, it is not right — not at all — to leave your cup there.

Oh, and one more thing: Don't ever swallow heroin. It tastes real bitter and can mess up your stomach.

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# Little guy beats Bruce in not so little case

By Dana Rubinstein  
The Brooklyn Paper

A state judge has ruled that a back-room deal between Bruce Ratner and another big-time developer for control of a key piece of real estate in the Atlantic Yards footprint was "improper."

Judge Ira Harkavy issued an unequivocal ruling on March 1 in favor of Henry Weinstein, who owns a Pacific Street building that Ratner needs to tear down to make room for his 16-tower arena, residential and office-space complex.

Weinstein had rented office space in the

building to developer Shaya Boymelgreen — but then Boymelgreen sold his 48-year lease to Ratner, a deal that paved the way for the building to be condemned by the state for Ratner's benefit.

But Harkavy ruled that Boymelgreen had no right to transfer the lease without Weinstein's permission.

"The leases in question here clearly and unambiguously required tenants to 'first' obtain the written consent of the landlords before any assignment of the leases," Harkavy wrote.

It is unclear what the implications of Harkavy's ruling are for Ratner, who has begun demolition work for Atlantic Yards.

The ruling means that control of the building returns to Weinstein, who is one of 13 tenants and property owners that are suing Ratner and state officials over the wrongful use of eminent domain to clear land and turn it over to Ratner.

Atlantic Yards opponents say the transfer of lease allowed Ratner to misrepresent how much property he controlled in the Atlantic Yards footprint when he was making his case for the project's approval with the Empire State Development Corporation and Public Authorities Control Board. Both bodies have since approved the project.

Had the state not believed Ratner controlled

## Clarification: Suit is not 'hot air'

The Brooklyn Paper

"A headline in last week's edition, 'Federal judge: Suit is hot air,' suggested that federal magistrate Robert Levy had recommended that a suit against Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project be dismissed because it lacked merit.

In fact, as the article pointed out, Levy said, 'The complaint raises serious and

difficult questions regarding the exercise of eminent domain under emerging Supreme Court jurisprudence."

Levy did recommend that the suit be dismissed — because he believes it should be heard in state, not federal, court.

Our headline should have better reflected what the story reported, namely that Levy was ruling on jurisdictional grounds, not on the merits of the case.

— The Editors

the building, it might have been less quick to invoke eminent domain, opponents say.

Forest City Ratner would not comment on the judge's decision.

But in an interview with The Brooklyn Paper, Boymelgreen said he will appeal the judge's ruling decision.

"[I was told] that we lost our lease [and] that Ratner ... lost the lease that we sold him," said Boymelgreen.

"We'll appeal, of course, and that will take a long time," added Boymelgreen. "[Weinstein] always wants a dollar more. When the lawyers start costing him more than he'll get, then he will stop."



The Brooklyn Paper / J. Lee Rosenbly

## Ratner: Yards to take longer

By Dana Rubinstein  
The Brooklyn Paper

The Nets arena will open a year later than promised — and the rest of Atlantic Yards won't be done until 2022 — six years behind schedule, two key officials said this week, contradicting a promise by Bruce Ratner that the mini-city would be completed on schedule by 2016.

"Hopefully, our timeline is to have the ball team open in 2010 [or] '11," said Bob O'Brien, an executive vice president for Forest City Enterprises, the parent company of Forest City Rat-

ner, which is developing Atlantic Yards.

Forest City Enterprises CEO Chuck Ratner agreed with O'Brien's assessment: "10, '11," he said of the opening date for the basketball arena.

The executives' remarks, made at an investors' conference this week in Naples, Fla., were first reported on the Atlantic Yards Report, a Web site.

The FCI executives' comments directly contradict those made by Bruce Ratner and his executives, who continue to say that the arena will be completed in time for tipoff in the fall of 2009.

Ratner has also promised that the

rest of the project — including its 2,250 units of affordable housing — will be done by 2016.

Just two weeks ago Ratner's Vice President Jim Stuckey reiterated that promise in the New York Observer after his landscape architect Laurie Olin said the project would take "20 years."

"We expect that it will take 10," Stuckey retorted.

But Olin may have been onto something, the FCI executives indicated.

"This is going to be a 15-year build-out," said Chuck Ratner. By that count, the project will be coming to a close in 2022.



The Brooklyn Paper / J. Lee Rosenbly

Demolition continued with the clearing of this lot near the intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues.

## BROOKLYN BRIEFS

### Wanna be a lifeguard?

By Christie Rizk  
The Brooklyn Paper

Think you have what it takes to protect Brooklyn's swimmers this summer? The city's Parks and Recreation department is looking for a few good men and women for life-saving posts at all of the borough's beaches and pools this summer.

"In Brooklyn — where not everyone goes to the Hamptons and residents like me are proud to [spend the] summer [here] — keeping our beaches open as a way to cool off is essential," said Borough President Markowitz.

Each year, the Parks Department hires more than 1,000 lifeguards to watch over the city's 53 pools and 14 miles of beaches. Without them, the more than 20 million visitors to Brooklyn's beaches would have to find somewhere else to cool off during the hot summer months. New York City lifeguards are paid \$11.72 an hour for a 48-hour, six-day week.

In order to qualify, you must be able to swim 50 yards in 35 seconds, and have near-perfect vision without glasses or contact lenses, and be at least 16-years-old.

Lifeguard tests are held weekdays at 4:30 and 6:30 at 533 W. 59th St. between 10th and 11th avenues in Manhattan.



The Brooklyn Paper

State Sen. Marty Golden is apparently running for mayor.

But like his fellow Marty — Borough President Markowitz — the Bay Ridge Republican is being a bit coy about it.

"If doors open, I usually tend to go through them," he told the Albany Times-Union this week. "I'm not closing the

door. ... I like challenges in life."

So if he won't close the door, and he tends to go through open doors, that means he's running, right?

"We'd be foolish not to look at it, given how much interest we've heard," Golden told The Brooklyn Paper.

Officially, Golden is running for re-election to his Senate district next year. But should the former cop make the run, he's

already sitting on a campaign war chest of \$425,000 — and won't have to spend much of it to win re-election.

His current bank account puts him roughly in the middle of the pack of known and undeclared mayoral candidates.

Golden has another thing going for him: There are roughly 1,400 Democrats running to succeed Republican Mayor Mike Bloomberg. But to date, no Republican has

declared for the race — though Golden was quick to say "other Republicans will certainly come out to play."

Thanks to public financing, Golden would have to raise about \$9 million to make a serious run.

Golden started his political career with his election to the City Council in 1998. He traded jobs with then-state Sen. Vince Gentile in 2002.

— Gersh Kuntzman

## Bloomy talks science

By Josh Saul  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Mayor Bloomberg traveled to Fort Greene on Tuesday to unveil a plan that he hopes will make all city high school students as successful as their Brooklyn Tech counterparts.

Hizzoner announced that the Department of Education will spend \$60 million to implement a core science curriculum in kindergarten through eighth grade over the next two years.

Bloomberg hailed Brooklyn Tech — where more African-American students passed the Advanced Placement biology test than at any other school in the nation — as a model that he hopes will be replicated thanks to earlier science education.

That's a tall order, with or without the core science curriculum.

"Here, AP Bio is not even the terminal course," said Brooklyn Tech Principal Randy Asher. "There are higher level courses, such as anatomy, genetics and organic chemistry."

Students at Brooklyn Tech benefit from state-of-the-art science labs, which opened last year. The mayor hopes more students will have such facilities.

"This major new investment in science education will help prepare students not only for high school courses, but also for exciting and successful careers in science," he said. "And I have no doubt that some of the students at Brooklyn Tech are already on their way."



David J. Phillip

Mayor Bloomberg visited with students at Brooklyn Tech HS on Tuesday.



The Brooklyn Paper / Amy Goodman

## Purim is one wacky holiday



The Brooklyn Paper / Rick Soto

At synagogues and community centers throughout Brooklyn, Jews celebrated Purim, last Saturday night and Sunday, with costumed frivolity that commemorated the rescue of Jews in ancient Persia. From left: Prospect Heights Chabad brought the reggae star Matisyahu and his band to the Southpaw bar on Fifth Avenue in Park Slope on Sunday. At Congregation B'nai Avraham of Brooklyn



The Brooklyn Paper / Rick Soto

Heights, the party people included (second from left) the pirate rabbi Aaron Raskin, and his wife Shternie; Sara Rivka Weintraub as a secret agent; Tova Weinberger as Dracula, and Rachel Leah Weintraub as Frankenstein. Rounding out the fun was Pratt Institute's rabbi, Simcha Weinstein, dressed as a jailbird and accompanied by his son.



The Brooklyn Paper / Rick Soto

## Coney Island looks like bomb hit it

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

They paved paradise to put up ... What exactly?

Despite open opposition from city officials to his plan to include luxury condos in a \$2-billion Vegas-style amusement area, developer Joe Sitt is still bulldozing land he owns between Surf Avenue and the famed Boardwalk.

Most recently, Sitt's demolition men tore down amusement cars at Stillwell Avenue, including the "International Speedway" go-cart track and the much-loved bating cages.

Sitt's Thor Equities wants to use the freshly cleared land — and the adjacent Astorland property that it also owns — for an all-year amusement complex whose 975 residential



The Brooklyn Paper / Rick Soto

Demolition continues in Coney Island to make room for a proposed Vegas-style amusement, hotel and residential complex.

units would generate the revenue needed to underwrite the theme park.

"People who only come out in the summer won't recognize the place," said one local, who requested anonymity because he may want to do business with Sitt.

Other residents just wish Sitt could've left the area alone.

On Sunday, the poet laureate of Coney Island, Amos Weisler, will unveil a new protest song at 1 p.m. at the Polar Bear Clubhouse on the Boardwalk.

The haunting lyrics are meant to be sung by a group, he told The Brooklyn Paper: "Save Coney Island/Save Coney Island/Save Coney Island/Don't let them take it away/The world wants it to stay."

Weisler doesn't speak for everyone, said Sitt's spokesman Lee Silberstein, who confirmed that the land-clearing would continue.

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